

Hafa Adai!

'Casino industry is good
for Saipan.' » **PAGE 2**

'CNMI doesn't have enough local
workforce for growing private sector.' » **PAGE 3**

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75¢

Study: \$8.71 average hourly rate in CNMI

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauline_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Results of the 2014 CNMI Prevailing Wage and Workforce Assessment Study of the Department of Commerce's Central Statistics Division were released to the public yesterday.

According to the report, the average hourly rate in the whole of the CNMI is \$8.71.

Compared to the 2011 data of the CNMI-wide hourly rate excluding fringe benefit, the current rate is lower by \$0.11. An almost \$1 difference can be noted when compared to the 2011 hourly rate

See **STUDY** on **Page 4**

Finance processing \$3.3M in tax refunds for July release

By JOEL PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Taxpayers in the CNMI can expect to get their tax rebates by the middle of July.

The Department of Finance is currently processing the next batch of refunds, rebates, and child tax credit funds that will be approximately \$3.3 million to close to 5,000 taxpayers, a statement from the Office of the Governor said.

See **FINANCE** on **Page 4**



AFTER ROAD-PAVING PROJECTS

Kagman residents now worried about over- speeding tourists

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Now that the Department of Public Works is finally paving Kagman's dilapidated roads, residents of the village are now worried that the improved thoroughfare will further embolden motorists—especially tourists—to speed up their ascent and descent to and from Forbidden Island, which could endanger the lives of residents.

"Now that it is being paved I am worried that the children who are crossing the road area or riding their bikes might have a problem, so I would ask Department of Public Works to put 'Children Crossing' signs," Louie Camacho a resident

See **KAGMAN** on **Page 4**

Hawaiian Rock construction workers are busy preparing Chopak Drive in Kagman III for initial paving. Department of Public Works inspector Felipe Kapileo, far back, inspects and notes down what is being done. The first phase of the project is set to be completed next week.

INSIDE



NATION

A 21st-birthday party thrown by a group of visiting Irish college students turned tragic when the fifth-floor balcony they were crammed onto collapsed with a sharp crack.

» **PAGE 17**



ENVIRONMENT

Under canopies of dead angular branches and drooping fronds, a forest of skeletal Joshua trees that have not reproduced in decades.

» **PAGE 19**



LIFE & STYLE

"Inside Out," the latest Pixar punch to the heart, navigates the labyrinth of a young girl's mind in an antic, candy-colored romp through childhood memory.

» **PAGE 20**



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Local

‘Casino industry is good for Saipan’

By JOEL PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An emerging casino industry will be good for Saipan because it can offer employment to younger citizens on the island.

“I think the casino industry will provide good jobs,” said Norman T. Tenorio, managing director of Joeten Enterprises,

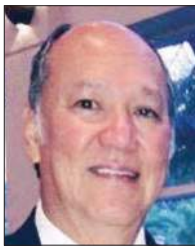
Inc. and president and CEO of Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc., said

Tenorio said that the Best Sunshine International, Ltd. casino, soon to rise in Garapan in particular, will give “opportunities” to younger members of the society.

“It is not like before when the government can provide the jobs. But now that the popula-

tion, I think the Best Sunshine can provide the jobs,” Tenorio said, adding that he is encouraging residents to apply for the jobs.

The executive also expressed amazement that Best Sunshine is looking to hire 500



Tenorio

local residents, and that only about 200 applied.

“I think it is scary for them (those not wanting the casino jobs). It is a profession, and that training is provided. They should take the opportunity,” Tenorio said.

Overall, the executive said the casino industry is “good for Saipan.”

“As long as it is regulated very well and properly controlled, it should be OK,” Tenorio said, citing that in the U.S mainland more than 50 percent of the states have an existing gaming industry.

He added that Saipan relies heavily on tourism and that the gaming industry is just part of this industry. “We are in the tourism industry, and casino is part of it,” Tenorio said.

He also expressed optimism on Saipan’s economy, although one major concern he sees is the decrease in flights coming into the CNMI.

Tenorio said he is concerned of the continued decline of Japanese markets, and that it is probably time for Saipan “to level up” as a tourist destination.

“But I think what Saipan needs is to upgrade its infrastructure as a tourist destination. We need good roads, water supply, sewer, etc.,” Tenorio said.

Paternity results thrown out before closing arguments in Taitano trial

The paternity test results of the child allegedly fathered by a man accused of raping and causing to become pregnant a 13-year old girl were essentially thrown out by the Supreme Court yesterday before closing arguments were heard by jurors in the trial of Hank Peredo Kennedy Taitano, the defendant charged with rape.

Despite this, the prosecution asked jurors to recall the “loud” evidence and testimony of the alleged rape victim who took the witness stand and described the sexual assault through tears, while hiding behind her hair covering one side of her face just to avoid making eye contact with the man accused of raping her.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the court near press time yesterday afternoon, closing arguments

had ended and the jury had descended for deliberation.

After an hours’ long back-and-forth yesterday between prosecution and the defense, Gary Stuhlmiller, a DNA analyst from LabCorp in North Carolina, was not able to give testimony on the “relationship report,” or paternity test, which was expected to shed light on whether Taitano had fathered the victim’s child.

The results, which were to be “Exhibit 7.1” in Taitano’s trial, were essentially thrown out after Assistant Public Defender Matthew Meyer argued that the database compared to these samples were not reliable.

Meyer pointed out that Stuhlmiller himself admitted that he could not say if the DNA database used included data from people

from the Northern Marianas Islands. He asked the court to determine, like in a previous ruling in “CNMI vs Crisostomo” that the data used should be found “not relevant” because the data cannot be shown to have come from people from the NMI, and therefore they could not be compared to these sample.

Meyer also said, as the doctor himself admitted, that the results would not be able to tell the difference between the genetic markings of a parent of a child and a grandparent of a child. This would only be possible, the doctor conceded, if there were collected extensive samples from a CNMI database.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho agreed, essentially saying that to not

confuse or dissuade jurors that this evidence would not be submitted to them.

During her closing arguments, Holley recalled the victim’s testimony, describing how the 13-year-old’s first sexual experience was also the first time she was sexually assaulted by Taitano.

Holley asked jurors to recall how the victim sat in the witness stand and described how after swimming one day, the defendant sexually assaulted the girl.

Holley recalled how the victim said she felt disgusted and tried to get the defendant off her but couldn’t.

“She then told you how she went into the bathroom and cried,” Holley said.

Holley urged jurors to remember how they heard her tone of voice and through tears she hid behind her hair on a side of her face so to not see the defendant across the courtroom during both days she testified in court.

Holley said her testimony pointed to the date of rape around June 2014, and that the day the baby was born was on March 22.

“I’ll leave the math up to

you,” Holley told jurors.

Holley said that jurors heard from the victim’s mother, who recalled how the victim’s behavior changed after June, becoming easily upset and angry, and how she stopped having her period.

Holley said that it was suggested that the victim’s claim were about anger, but said, the victim did not look angry on the witness stand.

Anger does not cause one to hide behind hair to avoid making eye contact, she said.

The victim was asked if she was blaming the defendant because she was mad at home, Holley said, but then quoted the victim’s response, saying she was “blaming the defendant because he did this to me.”

Holley asked jurors to consider to only the victim’s testimony but also the mother, friend, and detective who described her as ashamed and crying, and corroborated what she told jurors.

During his closing arguments, Meyer said, “Anybody can make a claim that a crime was committed against them.

“Anybody can do that,” he told jurors. “You are going to read instructions that say it is the government’s job to prove what is all to easy to say,” he said.

He said a young lady came forward and said she was sexually abused and based on her claim a man was charged but that could happen to anybody.

He said the burden is always on the government to prove this.

Meyers said that they saw Dr. Stuhlmiller that day and knows that test results were sent to his lab. But “what evidence did you hear?” he said. “Nothing.”

(Dennis B. Chan)

Lieto acquitted of burglary, theft of copper wires

George Lieto, who was accused with another man of breaking into a store’s generator room in Kagman and stealing over \$1,600 in copper wires, was found not guilty of these charges yesterday.

In the reading of the verdict at the Superior Court yesterday afternoon, a jury found Lieto not guilty of burglary and not guilty of theft.

Lieto’s co-defendant, Terwik A. Ludwig, had pleaded guilty last February and was slapped with a three-year prison term.

Lieto’s lawyer, Matthew Holley, said after the verdict was read that they were relieved and happy that the trial was over. He said he appreciated the jury’s decision.

Meanwhile, chief prosecutor Leonardo Rapadas of Attorney General’s Office separately said they trusted the verdict and the jury’s time in deliberating over the evidence.

Lieto’s jury trial began on Monday in the Superior Court. On Monday, the prosecution had called to the witness stand three witnesses—patrol officer David Rabauliman, the manager of New Kagman Market, and the owner of a surveillance camera.

Last November, Lieto and Ludwig were separately arrested. According to a report from police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan last year, patrol officer David Rabauliman was conducting routine patrol along Cha Cha Road in Kagman last Oct. 26 at 9:47am when he spotted Lieto and Ludwig loading copper wires into a car’s trunk next to the generator room of New Kagman Market. (Dennis B. Chan)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-15-IFB-002

Supply, Fabrication and Delivery of Brown Tree Snake Traps

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the **Supply, Fabrication and Delivery of Brown Tree Snake Traps**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **June 04, 2015** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **June 11, 2015** 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **June 18, 2015** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer’s Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder’s responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **“DPW-15-IFB-002”**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **June 25, 2015**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **June 25, 2015**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@plcom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **July 25, 2015** and must be received no later than **July 01, 2015**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, **July 01, 2015**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on **June 25, 2015**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: “Credit Account No. 44660”. If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- Cash
- US Gov’t Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit


Performance time for completion of this project is **Ninety (90) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred Fifty Dollars (US\$150.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

/s/ RICHARD B. SEMAN
Secretary of Department of Land & Natural Resources



CNMI Scholarship Office
Caller Box 10007 Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 664-4750
E-mail: rose.pangelinan@gov.mp
www.cnmischolarship.net

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CNMI SCHOLARSHIP BOARD

Date: June 23, 2015
Time: 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
CNMI Scholarship Office Conference Room
Regular Session

AGENDA

- Meeting Call to Order
- Determination of Quorum
- Review and Adoption of Agenda
- New Business
 - Election of Officers
 - Create Sub-Committees
- Announcement & next meeting date
- Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Rose. S. Pangelinan
Administrator

'CNMI doesn't have enough local workforce for growing private sector'

By **FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA**
frauline_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Labor Secretary Edith Deleon Guerrero gave an update to members of the business community regarding the current status of the CNMI's workforce.

At the Rotary Club Saipan's meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan on Tuesday, Deleon Guerrero said the Commonwealth is not yet ready for the impending transition.

One of the main points that Deleon Guerrero raised was the misalignment of the jobs that are in demand in the CNMI to that of the scholarships being offered to students and would-

be employees.

In her presentation, Deleon Guerrero showed the majors that Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance focused on.

It showed the top three of the SHEFA's investment focused on social science/fine arts with 25 percent, education with 24 percent, and medical and allied fields with 16 percent.

It also showed that only 2 percent of SHEFA's investment focused each on engineering-related fields, tourism and hospitality, and accounting and economics.

"We know what's driving the CNMI economy. We know which industry is heavy but as you can see, you can see the percentage of investment or where



FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
Department of Labor Secretary Edith Deleon Guerrero served as the guest speaker of Rotary Club Saipan's meeting last Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

it's at. So are we aligned? That's the question. Obviously not," Deleon Guerrero said.

"The data shows that we're really misaligned," she added.

However, she said that this specific problem is already being addressed.

"That is being addressed by the scholarship programs as we move forward in transitioning out," Deleon Guerrero said.

Another thing that Deleon Guerrero pointed out is that more workers are needed on top of the current local workforce because of new developments that are coming in the CNMI. An estimate of more than 10,000 employees is required for planned additional rooms of

almost 4,000 in the islands.

"The CNMI does not have sufficient local workforce to populate the growing private sector pipeline," she said.

According to Deleon Guerrero, the U.S. federal government is being made aware of these concerns of the CNMI in an annual report that was mandated to the Commonwealth after the extension of the CW visas.

"With the growing economy, we still are going to run into a shortage of workers regardless whether we have 5,000 from those that are not looking for work right now, even if they come back into the market, it's still going to be a huge gap," Deleon Guerrero said.

Draft bill seeks repeal of law establishing CHCC

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A bill has been drafted in the Senate that seeks to repeal and reenact the law that established the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and seeks the reestablishment of CHCC once again.

Sen. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) is the author of the drafted bill. *Saipan Tribune* tried to contact Santos but failed to get comments as of press time. The bill seeks to repeal and reenact Public Law 16-51, which established CHCC.

The bill states that "in order

to develop a high quality and efficient health care system in the CNMI and ensure accountability and transparency, it is imperative that a right mix of skills, expertise, and competencies and a broad-based, balanced, and diverse group of qualified individuals, rather than one individual make the policies and decisions of the Corporation..."

Former representative Heinz S. Hofschneider introduced P.L. 16-51 first as House Bill 16-9.

The bill is said to have been

drafted for sole purpose of "dethroning" CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna.

Muna, in an interview yesterday, said she doesn't understand why P.L. 16-51 is so bad that a repeal and reenactment is needed.

"PL 16-51 can remove me, it does not say that there is only one person responsible because that person is still accountable to the board, to the government, and everything. I just don't understand

that why anyone would think that P.L. 16-51 says that "Esther Muna" can do everything she wants because that is not true," Muna said.

She declined to further comment on the drafted bill.

The bill's intent and purpose is to fix the present corporate and hospital governance structure and business model that empowers one individual to make and execute policies with the assistance of insider "directors."

Several employees and community members have made comments online saying that CHCC lately has become more efficient despite it being

cash-strapped and going from some \$40 million in budget to just some \$1 million annually since its birth in 2011.

The bill also states that P.L. 16-51 has been frustrated by incompetence, mismanagement, and lawlessness. Earlier former CHCC doctor, Dr. Grant E. Walker, issued a letter to the editor noting that P.L. 16-51 "is currently undergoing review to remove the one-person dictator-like control—the position of the CEO at CHCC."

The bill also seeks to change the now advisory board to a governing board. It will become a seven-member board.

Four representing the general public, one from Rota, one from Tinian, and two from Saipan, while three members would from the medical profession of which two are CNMI licensed physician and one is a CNMI licensed nurse.

The proposed board will be able to oversee the operations of CHCC, develop, implement and adhere policies, and other duties of a governing board.

This bill shows that overall operation of the hospital is spread among the board members, and its executives such as the CEO, chief financial officer, hospital administrator, and director of public health.

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DPL plans tour to Pagan, invites lawmakers

Department of Public Lands Secretary Pedro A. Tenorio has planned a tour to explore Pagan and has extended the invitation to CNMI lawmakers.

According to Tenorio, the main purpose of the trip is to actually see what Pagan looks like, as talks about proposed military activities, homesteading, and free trade zones on the island continue.

"I believe there is a need see what Pagan looks like now," Tenorio said.

The official said weather permitting, a chartered boat can take DPL representatives and lawmakers to Pagan "sometime during the summer."

"I'm checking with the chartered boat to get the possible time where the weather will permit the trip. So between now and summer," Tenorio said.

Tenorio emphasized that the goal of the trip to "to check the place" adding that he has not visited the island in "15 or 20 years."

He said part of the visit is a homesteading "village" that was planned years ago. "I want to see where it is, and see if there are changes in the land," Tenorio said.

Tenorio said inquiries have

already been made, and that the department has set aside \$50,000 for the exploratory trip.

The U.S. military earlier expressed intention to lease the whole of Pagan as a live training and bombing site, followed by draft environmental impact statement was issued, detailing the effects of the activities.

But the proposal on the live training and bombing was met by a resounding "no," not just by the CNMI community but also by lawmakers and leaders. (Joel Pinaroc)



JOEL PINAROC
Department of Public Lands Secretary Pedro A. Tenorio, left, and other DPL officials face lawmakers during a budget hearing on Capital Hill yesterday.

USNS *Millinocket* to visit Micronesia for Pacific Partnership

PACIFIC OCEAN—The Military Sealift Command joint high speed vessel USNS *Millinocket* (JHSV 3) will arrive in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, on June 21 for the ship's second stop of Pacific Partnership 2015.

Millinocket and embarked Task Force Forager, led by an expeditionary command element from the Navy's 30th Naval Construction Regiment (30 NCR) from Port Hueneme, California, are currently serving as the secondary platform for Pacific Partnership 2015. The primary platform for the

mission is the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS *Mercy* (T-AH 19).

"My crew and I are incredibly excited for our visit to the Federated States of Micronesia," said Capt. James Meyer, Commander, Task Force Forager. "We look forward to meeting with the national and local leaders as well as all the people of FSM. Military and civilian leaders all agree about the necessity of working together to respond quickly and effectively to natural disasters. This mission helps build that ability while simultaneously providing medical,

dental, veterinarian, engineering and civic assistance."

Meyer added, "This mission is also about the exchange of ideas. Unlike previous missions that focused on direct care, PP15 will focus on knowledge exchange and all direct care will be shoulder-to-shoulder with the host nation. The intent is to impart knowledge and skills that will last well after the mission is over."

Now in its 10th iteration, Pacific Partnership is the largest annual multilateral humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission con-

ducted in the Indo-Asia-Pacific Region. While training for crisis conditions, Pacific Partnership missions have provided medical care to approximately 270,000 patients and veterinary services to more than 38,000 animals. Additionally, the mission has provided critical infrastructure developments to host nations through the completion of more

than 180 engineering projects.

Public tours of USNS *Millinocket* will be available on June 27 from 9am to 11am and from 1pm to 3pm, please RSVP through the U.S. Embassy 320-2187 or email shedek@state.gov.

Additional information on the Pacific Partnership mission is available on the U.S. Pacific Fleet Pacific Partnership website at www.cpf.navy.mil/pacific-partnership/2015/. (PR)

KAGMAN

From Page 1

of Kagman III at Chopak Drive said.

"Tourist are speeding here going to and from Forbidden Island. My God, sometimes they go probably 35 miles an hour. They're zooming down on this road," he added.

His wife, Mimi, said that they are concerned about the safety of their neighbors' children.

"Sometimes they are playing on their bikes and they are only 7 years of age and they are just kids. Those tourists that come here are driving way too fast, like they think it is OK, but this is a residential area," Mimi said.

Louie said that it's not only the safety of children they are worried about, they also encounter a lot of tourists stopping

by their house or other homes to ask for directions.

"It's OK for them to do that, but they (DPW) still need to put signs because some may be nice about giving directions but sometimes when we're busy it might become a bother. Signs need to be put up pointing to Forbidden Island," Louie said.

One other resident, Melissa Halder, a mother of three children, said she is now stuck indoors because of the procession of cars going up and down the tourist hot spot.

"I let them (kids) stay in our yard, which is not too big, or inside the house because I worry for their safety. They have bikes and they love to ride them a little far from the house, but the tourist are just speeding down the road and I am scared if something happens [bad to them]," Halder said.

She said the government

should plan on putting road bumps on the road leading up to the Forbidden Island lookout.

During the initial assessment of the road, *Saipan Tribune* encountered a convoy of three large rental vehicles that tourists use to speed up to Forbidden Island. However, one stopped and asked directions from one residence.

After getting proper directions, they sped toward Forbidden Island.

Hawaiian Rock construction workers were further down the road flattening and getting the roads ready to be paved eventually by Friday or next week.

DPW inspector Felipe Kapileo was at the site and told *Saipan Tribune* that residents need not worry because after the paving, signs will be put up such as crossroad signs and stop signs, but he didn't mention

road bumps or other signs relating to children crossing.

Initial groundbreaking for roadwork in Kagman kicked off last March 12 with Chopak Drive being the first project. Three other roads will also be paved, two in Kagman and one in San Vicente. Hawaiian Rock started road clearing for the project a month after the groundbreaking in early May.

Hawaiian Rock workers at the site said that they are almost done with Chopak Drive and have some other workers surveying Pine Drive.

The funding for the road-paving projects was made possible after Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed a local law in July 2014 appropriating more than \$2.17 million in bond funds for Saipan projects. Of the \$2.17 million, \$600,000 went to the Precinct 5 road-paving project.

FINANCE

From Page 1

This batch will be released to those taxpayers who filed their returns by March 31, 2015.

Refund, rebates, and child tax credit checks will be sent by mail over the weekend and are expected to reach taxpayers by next week, the statement said.

"Our efforts are geared to releasing your tax refunds at the earliest possible time. I appreciate your patience as we continue to process the rest of the refunds to be mailed out," Finance Secretary Larissa Larson said.

First batch

Early this week, the Finance

department's Division of Revenue and Taxation released tax refund and rebate checks to 232 taxpayers who had borrowed against their refund or rebate amounts at the Bank of Saipan or Express Financial.

The amount released in the initial dispersal totaled to approximately \$381,490.

Bank of Saipan and Express Financial offered taxpayers a loan program in which their expected rebate or refund served as collateral.

Additionally, the department also released all American Opportunity Tax Credits payments that have been cleared. A total of \$52,152.86 will be released to the 57 taxpayers who claimed the credit for educational ex-

penses on their 2014 tax returns.

Thankful

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said he is "pleased" with the work of the department.

"I am pleased with the work by the staff of the Department of Finance and everyone involved for their hard work in processing and releasing these payments to our taxpayers. I know many of us remember the days where taxpayers were forced to wait an unreasonable amount of time to receive the money that they were entitled to," Inos said.

He further lauded the efforts of the Finance chief "for her diligence and offer the administrations gratitude to Bank of Saipan and Express Financial

for offering our taxpayers an option for smoothing the transition between tax filing and the dispersal of the refunds and rebates."

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, meanwhile, thanked CNMI taxpayers "for their patience."

"Thank you to the many taxpayers in the CNMI for your patience during this period. The department staff is committed to the timely release of these payments and the full release is underway. If you do not receive your refund/rebate/child tax checks by the middle of July, please contact the Division of Revenue and Taxation and inquire if they have any issues that may be holding up release of your checks," Torres said.

STUDY

From Page 1

including fringe benefits.

Per island, the latest average hourly rate on Saipan is \$8.74. It is higher by almost \$0.50 from Tinian's \$8.26, and Rota has a lower hourly rate of \$8.09.

Hourly wages by occupation and sex, age, ethnicity, citizenship and employment status can also be seen in the report.

"The study helps determine prevailing wage rates in all occupations with breakdowns by industry, demography, and geography in the CNMI," Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman said.

"In the appendices of the report, we listed all the detail occupations along with their standard occupational codes, minimum and maximum hourly rate, mean hourly rate, standard deviation hourly rate, and median hourly rate," added Statistics Division director Alfonso Sound.

Press Secretary Ivan Blanco noted that according to Rabauliman, fringe benefits data were collected from the businesses in the 2014 data, but was not the case for those that are from the public sector.

"To highlight a few of the findings based on this study, there are 25,658 employees in the CNMI, 21,643 are in the private sector and 4,015 are in the public sector. There are 22 major occupations and 425 detail occupations in the CNMI," Sound said.

According to the study, 13,996 of the employees are male and 11,662 are female.

Critical data

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said the completion of the survey is important as it addresses the requirement needs of employers when

submitting their Labor Condition Application to the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Foreign Labor Certification.

"This report is also critical to ensure that U.S. worker wages in the same occupation are not adversely affected in the recruitment of foreign workers requiring prevailing wage(s) for their compensation. Our collective efforts in getting the next prevailing wage study update is critical for all CNMI employers and workers alike," Inos said.

"U.S. Public Law 110-229 required that CNMI employers seeking to hire new employees from outside the CNMI pay a wage equal to or above the average hourly wage rate for the particular occupation the employer is seeking to fill," Rabauliman said.

Aside from determining the type of occupations that exist and measuring occupation-specific wage rates for each of the identified occupations in the CNMI's economy, the study also aimed to assess the current types and level of skills in the business community to determine areas that might benefit from training and enhancement.

For Labor Secretary Edith Deleon Guerrero, the report will be used as a tool for the enforcement efforts of her department as well as to develop CNMI's workforce.

"It also assesses current type and level of skills in existing occupations in the CNMI to help shape educational and training needs of the current labor force; and, assist in policy making decision in the public and private sectors," Deleon Guerrero said.

The 2014 survey is an update of the survey done in 2011. Both survey reports are available at the Commerce website: <http://commerce.gov.mp/divisions/central-statistics/>.

Apatang supports bill to develop Pagan through FTZs

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang is backing Sen. Sixto Igisomar's (R-Saipan) bill, which aims to bring agencies together to set off the process

of resettling Pagan.

In a letter to Apatang, Igisomar stated that he agrees with the intent of the bill and the benefits of designating public lands and reserving such for purposes of carrying out free trade zones.

Senate Bill 19-29, seeks to amend Public Law 18-16 on free trade zones so that the departments of Public Works, Public Lands, and Lands and Natural Resources, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, and the Commonwealth Ports Authority can collaborate and cooperate with the Northern Islands mayor in identifying free trade zones on Pagan.

"FTZs are meant to promote, encourage, and further existing or new infrastructure development and economic activities in areas that do not immediately impact surround-

ing land uses, offer tax abatement, and reduction of lease rentals as incentives to enterprises for developing in such areas," Apatang said.

"Designating and reserving an area of land for a FTZ is one of many steps in the process of actually making it work," he added.

Although S.B. 19-29 provides a six-month timeline after it becomes law to identify FTZs, compliance with this mandate accomplishes a "step in the process." Apatang believes the accomplishment must be "preceded by more important steps."

However, Apatang conceded-



Apatang

to the fact that resettling the Northern Islands will require "tremendous logistical preparations, the execution of which will equally require tremendous financing."

"It is to be expected that any plan that is or to be developed for the resettlement of the northern islands will be monumental tasks. This task, we believe, will be accomplishable with adequate financing, whatever that price comes out to. But to make the entire process realistic and functional for both the short and long term, proper planning must be at the very front of the process," he said.

Apatang also recommended that development should make sure that planning of the past that became disadvantageous

to both the government and private land owners years later are "not repeated in the planning of the northern islands."

"A comprehensive land use study will be the most valuable guide and working tool for planning development in the northern islands," he said.

"This first step should save the government and any interested, potential developer the trouble of conducting piecemeal study and planning on islands with very limited developable land area...the Northern Islands will be easily 'marketable,' especially to developers and investors who must work with schedules and financial resources that produce results at the least cost possible," he added.

Nearly 500 students attend NMC Cash for College workshop



NMC

Associated Student of the Northern Marianas College Secretary Lupe Camacho assists a participant during the recently held Cash for College workshop where you can get assistance in filling up forms for several scholarships that are being offered for the upcoming NMC Fall Semester.

Approximately 500 high school and college students recently attended the Northern Marianas College's "Cash for College" workshop last Saturday to obtain one-on-one assistance in finding money to pay for college expenses.

The event was held simultaneously on NMC campuses Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

"We are very pleased with the turn out of the event and are glad that many students attended the workshop to maximize scholarship opportunities," said Leo Pangelinan, Dean of Student Services.

At the workshop, participants received personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms for the various federal and local scholarships and grants including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the Saipan Higher Education Financial Aid (SHEFA), the CNMI Scholarship, the College Access Challenge Grant Scholarship, and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation Scholarship.

In addition, staff members from the College's Office of Admissions and Records were present to provide information and assistance with the NMC ap-

plication process.

The workshop participants also received free notary and copying services, as well as fee waivers for the NMC admission application fee and placement tests for the upcoming fall 2015 semester.

Many of these participants were students from Marianas High School, Kagman High School, Saipan Southern High School, and other private high schools. Some of the participants also included parents of students, and students currently enrolled at NMC.

The free Cash for College workshop including the workshops in Tinian and Rota were made possible through the financial support from the U.S. Department of Education's College Access Challenge Grant program. This federal program aims to increase the number of students from under-represented minority populations enrolled in college.

Students who missed the recent Cash for College workshop can still visit the NMC's Financial Aid Office in room N-1 at the As Terlaje campus (M-F: 8am-4:30pm) or contact the office at (670) 237-6792 to receive assistance in filling forms.

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DPL eyeing new RFPs for public land leases

By **JOEL PINAROC**
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands is eyeing to issue request for proposals for new leases on public lands.

The department expects the draft for the RFP to be completed in about six months, DPL Secretary Pedro A. Tenorio told lawmakers during a budget hearing at Capital Hill on Wednesday.

Tenorio emphasized that the new RFP is one of the options for long-time leases in the CNMI that are about to expire. The other option is to grant an

extension of the expiring lease.

One of the most significant of these leases was the lease agreement of Mariana Resort and Spa. The lease is about to expire in two years.

Tenorio said this is the “first time in the CNMI” that a 40-year lease is about to expire, and that he and Gov. Eloy S. Inos are in discussions on how to go about the expiring lease.

Under CNMI laws, investors can apply for 25-year lease with an option for an extension of another 15 years, for a total of 40 years.

Mariana Resort and Spa, owned by Kan Pacific Saipan,

is one of the very first resorts in the CNMI and has just recently celebrated its 37th anniversary.

The owners of the resort earlier expressed their interest to continue the 40-year lease.

But according to Tenorio, the recommendation he got was to “float” the RFP on the expiring leases and hopeful-



Tenorio

ly attract “competitive proposals.”

“I do understand emotional attachment (to Mariana Resort), but we have to look at what is in the best interest of the community,” Tenorio, adding that the RFP is the best “approach.”

He said he also wants to hear more recommendations, partic-

ularly from lawmakers.

Tenorio added that in making the evaluations, the DPL will factor in not only the current value of the public land that was leased but also the improvements.

He added that there is no provision under the law that the original lessee gets “first crack” on the expiring lease.

Rep. Antonio P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said his position on the

lease has always been clear.

“I hope that the DPL will also look at the value of these earlier investors who decided to stay and stick it out in the CNMI even during economic difficulties,” Sablan said.

He mentioned that the government should also look into factors “that we do not see on paper” when making the evaluation to enter into new public land leases.

House adopts 3 new bills

Members of the House of Representatives adopted three new bills in a special session on Capital Hill yesterday.

The discussions were uneventful, with a majority of the lawmakers giving their nod on the three bills.

Authorized by Rep. Antonio P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), House Bill 19-41 requires all vehicles belonging to tour companies to be registered with the Department of Commerce.

The bill noted that some tour operators “are maximizing their profits by only registering the minimal number of vehicles under the name of the company but utilize more vehicles for the

services they provide.”

All 19 representatives voted “yes,” while Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) voted “no.” He said one of his reasons is that certain recommendations by the Department of Commerce “were not followed.”

Another bill passed by the House was H.B. 19-15, authored by Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan).

The bill gives a substantial discount to CNMI veteran who apply for an operator’s license. The bill said the veteran’s license fee should be 25-percent lower than the usual \$40 license fee.

All 20 representatives voted

“yes” to H.B. 19-15.

The lawmakers also gave their unanimous “yes” vote Senate Bill 19-20 authored by Sen. Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan).

S.B. 19-20 proposes a member of the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands to have a seat at the board of directors of the Marianas Visitors Authority. The bill also proposes that the HANMI rep-

resentative will be appointed by the governor.

Lawmakers, meanwhile, decided not to act on S.B. 19-5, a bill prohibiting telecom operators in the CNMI to impose an expiration date to unused cellular prepaid credits.

The bill, authored by Sen. Teresita A. Santos (R-Rota), will be subject to further review. *(Joel Pinaroc)*

Won Pat responds to Simon Sanchez High School RFP

HAGÁTÑA—Speaker Judith T. Won Pat is pleased that the RFP to reconstruct Simon Sanchez High School has been released. Simon Sanchez serves a large part of the island’s northernmost student population but has required massive construction repairs. Plans to revamp the 40-year-old structure have been long awaited.

“I have been a steadfast advocate for our schools and quality education,” said Won Pat. “The news that the \$100-million RFP is now out means that our students can look forward to a new school conducive to learning.”

Early 2014, Won Pat had introduced the bill that became Public Law 32-120, which appropriated Real Property Tax

Revenues specifically for the renovation or construction of a new Simon Sanchez High School with the stipulation that unused funds go to renovating the remaining public schools. “I’m thrilled that this project is being fulfilled,” said Won Pat. “Investing in education is an investment into the future, and it boosts our economy today. The rehabilitation of Simon Sanchez and the rest of our schools will provide great advantages. We benefit tremendously when we prioritize education.”

For more information, please contact Nicole DeLisle Dueñas in the Office of the Speaker at (671) 472-3586 or via electronic mail at delisleduenas@judiwonpat.com. *(PR)*



NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE Procurement & Property Management Office

P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 2300/01/02 • Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: procurement@nmcnet.edu • Website: www.nmcnet.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC BID#: IFB NMC15-003

NMC CREES SUPPLY AND DELIVERY
OF NEW RESEARCH FARM EQUIPMENTS
NMC CREES RESEARCH FARMS SAIPAN, ROTA AND TINIAN

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of New Research Farm Equipment’s for Saipan, Rota and Tinian.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing Monday, May 18, 2015, between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., June 18, 2015, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through the USDA-NIFA authorized under the Hatch Act, as amended August 11, 1955, Award #2014-31100 (Regular).

For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

Approved by the following:

/s/ Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement Manager

/s/ Dr. Tim Kock
Dean-Director, NMC CREES



Procurement And Supply CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP NO.: RFP15-DCCA/NAP-101

SUBMISSION: JULY 9, 2015 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“TO PROVIDE CUBICLE WORKSTATIONS/PARTITIONS AND OFFICE FURNITURE/FIXTURE FOR THE DCCA – NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM”

The Scope of Work for this project will be available on or after **June 18, 2015** at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Drive, Saipan during regular working hours.

Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing and due no later than the close of business on **June 30, 2015** and must be directed to Mr. Walter Macaranas, NAP Administrator by fax to (670) 664-2850 or e-mail to dccanap@nplcom.com

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if it’s in the best interest of the CNMI. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ **LAURA T. OGUMORO**
Secretary of DCCA

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, July 2nd, 2015 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Board Conference Room 2nd floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Bldg. (Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 6/25/15 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings

Conditional Use Application #2015-2209: H.S. Lee Construction Co., Inc. is proposing to amend its Conditional Use Permit #2014-1106 for Hotel, to include a restaurant, additional rooms, and a revised parking layout. This project is situated on TR 21073, 21074, and lot 104 D 04, on Beach Road, Garapan, across from I Love Saipan. It is zoned as Tourist Resort.

Conditional Use Application #2015-2341: Saipan Adventure Tours LLC is proposing to operate a skydiving or parachuting activities which include jumping from the plane at selected elevations between 7,000ft to 14,000ft. with tandem instructors. This use is classified as “Amusement, Outdoor” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The take-off point will be from the Saipan International Airport, and the landing area is proposed to be on Lot #502 NEW-REM in Dandan, behind Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. This area is zoned as Rural.

C. Communications

D. Old Business

1. The Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Properties Maintenance Act

E. New Business

1. Zoning Budget
2. Office Operations Report (permits/ enforcement)
3. Introduction of new personnel (Zoning Planner & Zoning Enforcement Technician)

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, June 25, 2015 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building (Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 5/28/15 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings

Conditional Use Application #2014-3667: Sunleader is proposing to construct and operate a hotel consisting of 34 rooms with a gift shop and amenities. This use is classified as “Hotel” and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This proposal will be situated on lot #007 D 41, Beach Road in Garapan, between Saipan Oceanview Hotel and Majesty Restaurant. It is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

Conditional Use Application #2015-2143: Pacific Corporation is proposing to operate an auto/ machinery shop to include general maintenance, repairs, body work, painting, rustproofing, car washing & detailing, lubrication, and muffler shop. This use is classified as “Vehicle Repair, General” and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This proposal will be situated on lot 1865 New-5, behind Pacific Airconditioning and adjacent to Blue Water Homes. It is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

C. Communications

D. Old Business

E. New Business

1. Office Operations Report (permits/ enforcement)

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

H.S. Lee Construction Company

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. H.S. Lee Construction Co., Inc. is proposing to amend its Conditional Use Permit #2014-1106 for Hotel, to include a restaurant, additional rooms, and a revised parking layout. This project is situated on TR 21073, 21074, and lot 104 D 04, on Beach Road, Garapan, across from I Love Saipan. It is zoned as Tourist Resort.

Date: July 2nd, 2015, Thursday

Time: 5:00 pm

**Place: Zoning Board Conference Room,
2nd Fl. Joeten Dandan Comm'l Bldg.**

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, July 1st, 2015 or via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, or US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

DHS official checking whether CNMI chemical facilities are security risks

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Lockett

An official from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Infrastructure Protection dealing with Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards visited the CNMI.

Rodney Lockett, Region 9 director for the Infrastructure Security Compliance Division, was in Saipan to conduct a meeting with stakeholders in the Commonwealth who are dealing with chemical facilities. Prior to the meeting at Pacific Islands Club Saipan yesterday, Lockett also met with Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

This is the first time that a representative dealing with CFATS visited the islands since it was issued in 2007.

"It has taken a while. As you saw in the presentation we had a large number of facilities to address," Lockett said.

"Now I've had the opportunity to get over here, I've taken that opportunity," he added.

Lockett said sharing the department's information is key.

"The presentation of information to the CNMI is absolutely important because the CNMI is a key part of Region 9 and of the Department of Homeland Security. Sharing the information is key to the population and the community," Lockett said.

According to Lockett, chemical facilities in the CNMI need to look into Appendix A of 6 CFR Part 27 and identify if they have any chemical of interest that are above the screening threshold quantity.

"If they do, then they need to submit a top-screen," Lockett said.

The top-screen is part of the chemical security assessment tool of the department. It is a questionnaire that facility owners complete to provide DHS with a basic understanding of the facility's potential level of consequence.

After reviewing a facility's top screen, DHS will preliminarily determine whether the facility presents a high level of security risk.

Lockett said his main job in the island is to make sure that CNMI's stakeholders "know about the regulation, they comply with the regulation."

"If they have any questions, they can come to me and I can assign other inspectors to follow up and assist them with complying with the regulation," Lockett said.

Lockett also visited Guam and will be on Hawaii next to meet with other officials there.

Aldan supports bill stopping DPL from leasing out to military

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Islands Mayor Jerome Aldan fully supports the intent of a Senate bill that prohibits Department of Public Lands from leasing any lands of the Commonwealth for any military live-fire or bombing activity.

Aldan said that Senate Bill 19-42 is commendable as "it recognizes the scarce amount of land mass in the CNMI and understands the importance of the government to preserve the remaining lands in the CNMI for future generation of Northern Marianas Descent.

This bill is created to protect

and preserve for future generations to come so as to prohibit the DPL from further leasing any public lands for any military live-fire or bombing activity and requiring any proposed public land lease for any other military activity to be ratified by the people at a general or special election.

He said that he supports the bill and its passage, provided, that it includes a provision in the NMI Constitution recognizing the collective owners of CNMI public lands who are persons of NMD consistent with Article



Aldan

VIII, Section 805 of the U.S.-CNMI Covenant (contractual) Agreement, and consistent with Article VIII, Section 806.

"It takes into account the U.S. military's continued use of the island of Farallon de Mendilla with its live bombs, live fire, and military training. It is obvious that the crafter of the bill is aware that CNMI has lost any and all political, cultural, and economic value and use of Farallon," Aldan said.

Aldan said what concerns him is the potential destruction of Pagan, which Northern Is-

land residents call home.

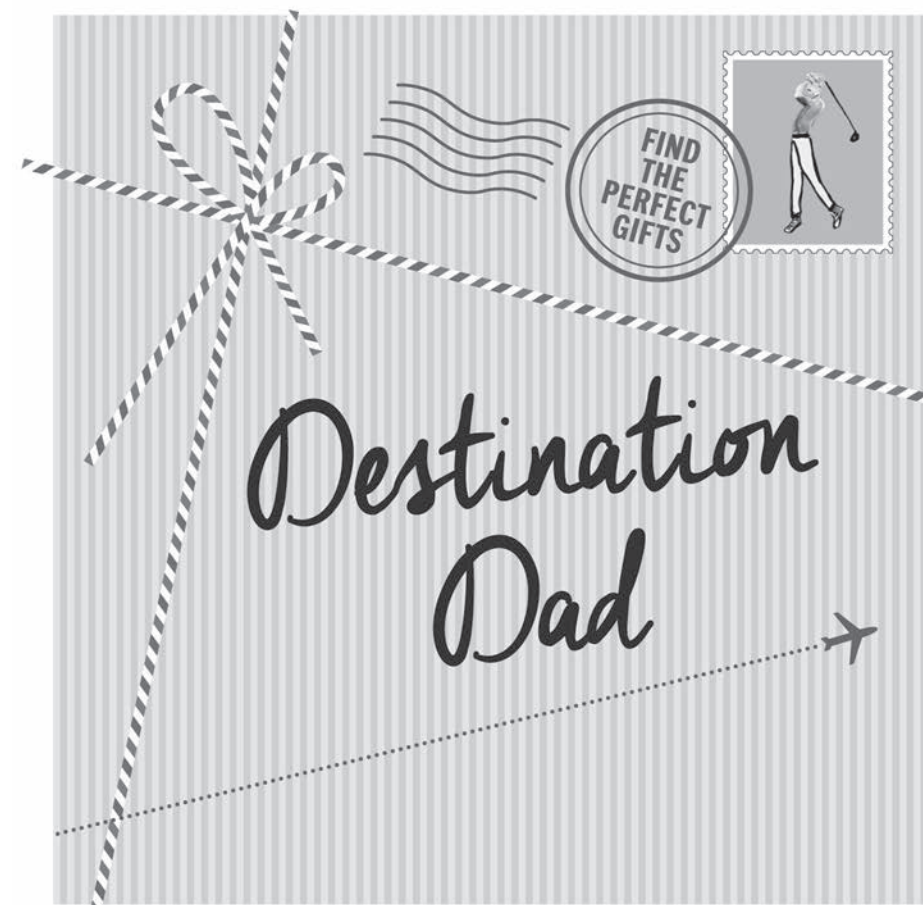
"The proposed functional warfare would include but not limited to amphibious warfare, air warfare, surface warfare, strike warfare, mine warfare, anti-submarine warfare, special naval warfare, and electronic warfare. These activities were specifically spelled out in the Notice of Intent, Federal Register, Volume 78, No. 50, date March 14, 2013," he said. "The intent and purpose of the proposal has not changed to date," he added.

Aldan said that allowing the expansion of the training and exercise would only bring "large contingencies of arse-

nals by foreign and U.S. Armed Forces, to expand the area in, which they conduct these dangerous exercises and destructive manmade contamination.

"Let's face it, Saipan continues to be a hot spot for unexploded ordinances and has not been rid or cleared of such UXO. Are we willing to give up another island or two for the sake of the military's training deficiencies and national security or patriotism because we are deemed to owe it to our country?" he said.

Aldan has had enough already conceding that it is a local matter and has not been negotiated and it is non-negotiable.



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IT&E gives \$3K to Bayani for Queen of the World Pageant

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauline_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Bayani Association received donation from a major sponsor for their upcoming event this July.

A \$3,000 check was presented to the Filipino organization by IT&E officials at the latter's office in Susupe yesterday.

The association will be holding a Queen of the World Gay Beauty Pageant on July 18 in celebration of its 14th anniversary.

IT&E's customer operations executive director Rob Harell and managing director/regional controller Rose Soladad gave the check to Bayani

president Mario Mayuga. Also present were event coordinator Annamae Adaza, event director Ernie Molina, and other Bayani officials and members.

"We're very thankful to IT&E for the donation," Mayuga said.

"This is an opportunity for us to reconnect with our loyal customer base. It's always been a fun pageant in the past, our employees, and the community always enjoys the pageant," Harell said.

"This is an opportunity for us to give back to them and provide opportunity for the larger part of the community to have fun," he added, noting that many of those involved in the pageant always



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IT&E is Bayani Association's major sponsor for their Queen of the World Gay Beauty Pageant. The show will be on July 18 at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort.

helped them in carrying out their community programs such as their *Man'amko* Makeover Day.

IT&E will also be holding a Texter's Choice contest for the pageant where the community can vote who their favorite candidate is.

According to Mayuga, they will make sure that the public will be entertained by the pageant.

"We have a nice production number and our director Ernie Molina worked very hard and I believe we'll have a nice show. I hope everybody enjoys," Mayuga said.

Fourteen candidates of the pageant will be competing in five categories: national cos-

tume, lingerie wear, talent, evening gown, and the question-and-answer portion.

The candidates are Chris, Laura, Bernadette, Jolly, Sunshine, Rica, Georgia, Macy, Nestea, Tammy, Milkshake, Joanne, Babes, and Anne.

The winner of the Queen of the World title as well as the runners-up will be receiving cash prizes, crowns, sashes, and bouquets. Special awards such as Ms. Congeniality, Ms. Photogenic, and Spirit Award will be also given.

The pageant will be held at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort from 6pm to 10pm. It is a fundraising event and tickets will be sold for \$10 each.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 18, 2004

CPA to order 5-percent salary hike in '05

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is planning to implement a 5-percent across the board salary increase among ports authority employees except position holders—the first salary augmentation effort after seven years of freezing all salary increase order in 1996. The plan is part of the proposed fiscal year 2005 budget, which has yet to be approved by the CPA Board of Directors when it meets during its next board meeting. When asked for comments, CPA executive director Carlos H. Salas said he is only authorized to release preliminary information on the budget proposal since has yet to be approved by the board.

DPS needs \$32M for FY 2005

To ensure his department's accreditation, Public Safety commissioner Edward Camacho said yesterday that an increase in funding for the department would be necessary in the next fiscal year. Camacho said the department needs between \$31 million and \$32 million for fiscal year 2005—a \$1 million to \$2 million increase from the department's \$30-million request for fiscal year 2004. Camacho said information requested dealt with funds on personnel and equipment. House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial had formed

an investigative committee that would force various agencies to appear and respond to the chamber's inquiries following a reported failure by certain agencies to submit required documents. Among the agencies that have reportedly failed to submit documents were the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the DPS.

June 18, 2008

Soaring gas prices spur interest in motorbikes

Skyrocketing gas prices in the Commonwealth are prompting many residents to trade-in four wheels for two, with one of the island's largest vehicle dealers and some rental offices reporting a rise in consumer interest in motorcycles and scooters. Gas prices rose 18 cents to \$4.80 per gallon on Saipan last week — far above the national average of roughly \$4 — due to the climbing global cost of crude oil, an increase that has placed a major strain on local drivers. Yet rather than suffer the added pinch at the pump, it appears many locals are choosing to adapt. Motorcycles in general perform better when it comes to gas mileage than cars. Better mileage means fewer fill-ups and less of a drain on drivers' finances in the long run.

House approves discounts on power bills

The House of Representatives passed a bill granting customer discounts on power billings. The bill would require the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to waive a portion of the fuel component of power rates. The discount will amount to 30 percent of the fuel rate for residential customers, and 10 percent for commercial customers. The bill would also repeal a law that allows the Public Utilities Commission to make decisions even if it has only one

member. The subsidy is designed to give the customers some relief from the skyrocketing cost of power.

June 18, 2012

NMC's Hart wants to lower tuition rate expanded

Northern Marianas College wants flexibility in setting the residency requirements for its students so that more recipients could avail of lower tuition fees. NMC president Sharon Y. Hart pointed this out in a letter to the Senate where a related bill is pending to date. There are four categories who will benefit from the new flexible criteria if passed: active members of the U.S. Armed Forces or the spouse or dependents; U.S. veterans eligible for a Veterans Administration education benefit, or spouse or dependents; graduates of a high school from within the CNMI or a recipient of a GED; and dependents of a person who earned a degree from NMC.

Man gets 6-month term for stealing money, checks

A man who stole a handbag that contained money and checks belonging to a restaurant manager has entered a guilty plea and was ordered to spend six months in prison. Anthony D. Eugenio pleaded guilty last week to the charges of theft, and theft by deception. The 32-year-old Eugenio was given credit for two days that he already served in jail. Police said Choi, the manager of Big Garden Restaurant, met with police on July 14, 2011 and reported that her handbag was stolen from her car at the Garapan Fishing Base on June 12, 2011. The bag contained \$2,250 cash, checks, and other items.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Pacific Corporation

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Pacific Corporation is proposing to operate an auto/ machinery shop to include general maintenance, repairs, body work, painting, rustproofing, car washing & detailing, lubrication, and muffler shop. This use is classified as "Vehicle Repair, General" and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This proposal will be situated on lot 1865 New-5 along Chalan Pale Arnold, behind Pacific Airconditioning and adjacent to Blue Water Homes. It is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

Date: June 25th, 2015, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd Fl. Joeten Dandan Comm'l Bldg.

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, June 24th, 2015 or via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, or US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Saipan Adventure Tours, LLC

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Saipan Adventure Tours LLC is proposing to operate skydiving or parachuting activities which include jumping from the plane at selected elevations between 7,000ft to 14,000ft. with tandem instructors. This use is classified as "Amusement, Outdoor" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The take-off point will be from the Saipan International Airport, and the landing area is proposed to be on Lot #502 NEW-REM in Dandan, behind Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. This area is zoned as Rural.

Date: July 2nd, 2015, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd Fl. Joeten Dandan Comm'l Bldg.

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, July 1st, 2015 or via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, or US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Sunleader

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Sunleader is proposing to construct and operate a hotel consisting of 34 rooms with a gift shop and amenities. This use is classified as "Hotel" and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This proposal will be situated on lot #007 D 41/40, along Beach Road in Garapan, between Saipan Ocean-view Hotel and Majesty Restaurant. It is zoned as Tourist Resort.

Date: June 25th, 2015, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd Fl. Joeten Dandan Comm'l Bldg.

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, June 24th, 2015 or via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, or US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

Mau a Pule presentation tonight

The public is invited to a presentation by visiting Samoan scholar Dr. Malama Meleisea which begins at 6pm tonight, June 18, at the Visitors Center Theater, American Memorial Park.



Meleisea

Meleisea's presentation will cover the Mau a Pule, Meleisea is the director for

the indigenous Samoan resistance movement organized against German colonial rule in the early 20th century.

This movement, led by the orator Lauaki, resulted in the exile of ten chiefs and their families to Saipan in 1909.

the Center for Samoan Studies at the National University of Samoa. He has published books and articles on Samoa and Pacific history.

This presentation is a part of the "Samoan Exiles on Saipan" project sponsored by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council. It is open to the public and free of charge. (PR)

10 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged 10 Saipan beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Affected sites Mobil Storm Drain, Teteto Beach, East Habor Dock, Talakhaya, Teweksberry Beach, DPW Channel Bridge, Civic Center Beach, Lally Beach, Chalan Piao Beach, and Hopwood School Beach.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

UOG accepting applications until June 30 for Fall 2015

The University of Guam will continue to accept applications for admission for Fall 2015 until Tuesday, June 30. Interested students can apply online at www.uog.edu/apply.

For more information contact UOG Admissions at 735-2214 or email admitme@uguam.uog.edu. (UOG)



Having a little extra cash after payday, Mr. Justo Castro walked into J&J Market in Tinian on Friday, June 12, 2015 at around 11am, hoping to try his luck. Feeling lucky, he purchased five Instant Scratchies Tickets and to his surprise, the third ticket conceals the winning \$1000! On the photo above is Mr. Castro receiving his prize from a representative of J&J Market. There are more prizes to win. NMASA would like to bid goodluck to all the players of the Commonwealth.

WORLD RESORT

FATHER'S DAY BRUNCH

SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2015 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Father's Day special brunch at **THE BUFFET WORLD**

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Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

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EDITORIAL

The curious case of Rachel Dolezal

Rachel Dolezal took exception when Matt Lauer asked that blunt question Tuesday morning on the “Today” show. “It’s a little more complex than me identifying as black, or answering a question of, ‘Are you black or white?’” she said.

But is it?

On Monday, Dolezal resigned as president of the Spokane, Wash., chapter of the NAACP, after a dizzy weekend of revelations prompted by her parents’ declaration that she was their biological child and she is ... no real question about this ... white.

But is she black because she says she is?

With each generation, the U.S. becomes a more blended hue of race and ethnicity. About 9 million people in the U.S. identified themselves as two or more races in the 2010 Census, up from 6.8 million a decade earlier.

Barack Obama, the son of a white mother and black father, identifies himself as black and is recognized as the first African-American president of the U.S.

When she ran for the U.S. Senate in 2012, Elizabeth Warren got snared in controversy over her claim of Native American ancestry, prompting a search for proof whether a great-great-grandmother was Cherokee.

Jeb Bush identified himself as Hispanic on a voter registration card, though he later said it was a mistake.

Some scholars say it shouldn’t matter, that race is a societal construct. Sarah Gaither, a researcher at the University of Chicago’s Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture, argues that race is flexible and malleable, especially for multiracial or multiethnic individuals. Gaither, who is biracial, says most people assume she’s white because of her light skin color but that she has sometimes called herself black, sometimes white and sometimes biracial. In the case of Dolezal, she says, we don’t know all the facts of her family history.

Dolezal has identified herself as black.

She led the Spokane NAACP. She was a part-time instructor in African-American studies at Eastern Washington University. She has taught such classes as “Intro to African Studies” and “The Black Women’s Struggle.”

When Dolezal reported that she’d received hate mail and was the victim of racial harassment, Spokane news outlets started asking questions.

Dolezal was asked on camera if she was African-American—her smile dropped and she said she didn’t “understand the question,” then abruptly ended the interview.

Reporters found her parents, Ruthanne and Larry, in Troy, Mont. They provided a birth certificate showing she was born to Caucasian parents, and family photos that showed their daughter as a young, fair-skinned, blond girl. Her parents said their ancestry is German and Czech, with “faint traces” of Native American.

They said stories Dolezal has told over the years—that she was raised for a time in South Africa, used bows and arrows to hunt for food—were fiction.

Spokane officials say they’re investigating if she lied on an application to become a member of a police oversight commission in Spokane by checking the “Black/African-American” box. There are questions about whether anyone actually

See **CURIOUS** on Next Page

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Why run for office?

I spend a fair amount of time talking to students and other young people about Congress and politics in general, and I’ve noticed something. It used to be that I’d regularly get asked how one runs for office. Nowadays, I rarely do.

This is a young generation that is famously leery of politics. Every year, the Harvard Institute of Politics surveys young Americans about their attitudes. In their most recent survey, only 21 percent of respondents considered themselves politically engaged. Last year, only a third counted running for office “an honorable thing to do”—compared to 70 percent who considered community service honorable.

A lot of young people are repelled by politics; they’ve lost faith in the system just as many other Americans have. And I fully understand that elected office is not for everybody. You can make wonderful contributions to our communities and to our society as a whole without holding office. But look. If you don’t have people who are willing to run for office, you don’t have a representative democracy. As the leading edge of the millennial generation reaches the age where running for office is a realistic possibility, I hope they’ll consider a few things.

First, it’s hard to find a more challenging job. The number, complexity, and diversity of the problems we face are astounding. As a politician, your work is never done; your to-do list is always full. It’s intellectually as challenging an occupation as anything I can imagine. It’s the chief way we resolve, or at least manage, the problems we face. In a country as diverse as ours, building a consensus behind a solution—which is what accomplished politicians try to do—is difficult work. It can also be immensely satisfying.

The long and short of it is this: I’ve encountered plenty of accomplished people in other professions who told me that in the end, they’re a bit bored. I can’t ever recall hearing a politician say that he or she was bored.

Second, I don’t know of another profession that puts you in touch with more people of more different types, ages, and views. You meet—and, if you’re serious, really engage with—liberals and conservatives, voters rich and poor, religious believers and secular humanists alike.

It’s often said that if you don’t like people, you should stay out of politics. This is true: politics isn’t for everyone. You have to enjoy

By LEE H. HAMILTON
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Lee Hamilton is director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University; Distinguished Scholar, IU School of Global and International Studies; and Professor of Practice, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.



all kinds of people and learn to get along with all kinds. Inevitably, you’ll encounter people who idolize you, others who demonize you, supporters who praise you, and critics who are more than happy to tell anyone who’ll listen that you should just drop dead. Odd as this sounds, this is one of the great attractions of the job: the splendid array of individuals and convictions that you encounter in politics.

Finally, and perhaps most important, the work can be immensely satisfying. Whatever level you’re running at, whether it’s for the school board or for President, you’re doing it to try to make things work.

My first year in Congress, in 1965, I voted for Medicare. I’d had no role in drafting it. I played no substantive part in its passage. Yet I still remember that vote, and I still derive deep satisfaction from it. Because I know that I voted for legislation that has helped millions of people, and will continue to do so into the future. That’s the thing about holding public office: you have a chance to contribute to the direction and success of a free society. In the scheme of things, this chance isn’t given to all that many people.

I know a lot of people who’ve worked mainly in private sector but spent some time in public office, and they almost invariably speak of their time in the public sector as among the most rewarding and satisfying times of their professional lives.

That’s because I think they understand a simple formula: there’s no America without democracy, no democracy without politics, and no politics without elected politicians. There are a lot of exciting, challenging and satisfying professions out there, but here’s what I tell young people: I consider politics chief among them.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Ramadan

It is a scorching sun in Mecca, more than 900 feet above sea level some 40 miles inland from Jeddah by the Red Sea, on the first new moon of ar-ramad, Arabic for “scorching heat or dryness,” where the word Ramadan comes from. The familiar kaffiyeh, a headgear in arid regions protects from sunburn, dust and sand. A zero precipitation accompanies the season of Ramadan. It is common sense to stay indoors and not exert too much energy to retain body humidity.

Islamic influence on global politics is considerable. With the patent oil grab that the West forced on the Middle East, the Sunni and Shi’a lands are on the news. The hijab is popular attire, a potent symbol of threat, too!

We write to a predominantly Roman Christian audience; it is helpful to keep an image of the Holy See (a corporate entity), or the Vatican (a city set-apart from Italy by decree of Mussolini), when looking at the Muslim destination of Mecca.

The Ramadan is now observed wherever the faithful is located. In the desert, it begins at first sight of hilal, the crescent moon, a season of smart inactivity for a lunar cycle as the aridity can easily dry up ones humidity. The religious term for this is fasting, one of the five pillars of Islam, but the upshot on dietary rules is a breakfast (suhour) before sunrise and dinner (iftar) after sundown with good passive and ascetic behavior in between for both the “do” (works of charity) and “don’ts” (keep one’s hands off any of the four wives).

The prayers (sayat) are thought to be more effective during this period, most particularly one of the odd numbered nights after the 20th day called “the night of power” (Laylat-al-Qadar), the holiest night of the year.

We trained the first batch of Peace Corps Volunteers into Muslim Mindanao in the early ’80s. We know that the religious observances associated with Ramadan are numerous, and fasting’s benefit on physiology are mythologized, which is why we bother with the practical origins of religious symbols.

Before it was a sacred religious observance, Ramadan was a practical human choice in an arid region, that you might learn self-control, according to the Quran. Exertion is a definite “no-no” in the desert heat.

However, ownership of habit becomes proprietary to a ruling elite, making the practice gain significance beyond its beginnings. A ruling class rises to regulate. The House of Saud has so far extended a protective umbrella for the faithful in Mecca.

In the Hajj, held at the end of the lunar calendar, Sept. 22, 2015, donning of the common seamless sheet (ihram) instantly levels the playing field. Pilgrims are equally at the mercy of Allah. The pilgrimage itself is considered to stretch back to the time of Abraham’s sacrifice of Ishma’el, the first-born. The Torah and the Biblos names Isaac, the second-born, as the sacrificial lamb.

Pilgrims’ rituals include a counter-clockwise walk around the cube-shaped Ka’aba, an encampment at Mina, a prayer vigil on Mount Arafat, and a night at Muzdalifa, after which the pilgrims

symbolically stone the devil. Pilgrims then shave their heads, perform an animal sacrifice, and celebrate the three-day festival of Eid al-Adha, commemorating Abraham’s sacrifice.

In 30 days, the Eid al-Fitr breaks the Ramadan’s Fast, an obligatory feast. This is one day where cuisine rules, the faithful are not permitted to fast at all.

The indecisiveness of dates stems from the use of the lunar cycle, eleven days short of the solar count in the Gregorian one, but in 33 years, the lunar tally catches up with the solar, confusing everyone save guardians of mathematical calculations where algebra and calculus got developed, which stargazers in the Levant excel in!

Let’s focus on the Sunni-Shia difference (apologies to Muslim friends for over simplifying). “Sunni” refers to the authority of the teachings of the Prophet, and “Shia” on the authority of the Caliphate (Imams) that followed the Prophet. There is no quarrel on the Quran dictated to Muhammad, or the Hadith, the Prophet’s explications of its meaning exemplified in the Prophet’s behavior proscribed to pilgrims. There is a difference in emphasis that matters.

Like the Protestant Reformation’s authority of Biblos against Peter’s in Rome, one sees how differing focus allowed variance in religious systems. Likewise, Sunnis accept the sayings

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



of the Prophet (Sunnah), imposing Sharia Law from the tripartite force of Kuttub al-sittah (Orthodox Hadith), the Quran, and binding consensus. Abu Bakr is the recognized first Caliph. The Shiites, on the other hand, recognizes only the fourth Caliph Ali to be the legitimate heir, focusing on the united voice of heirs now ensconced in three groups: the Shi’a Twelvers (12 Imams), the Ismailis’ Seveners (7 Imams), and the Zaidis’ Fivers (5 Imams).

Biblos against the scepter of Rome rends the seamless garment of Golgotha while Muhammad’s teachings (Sunnah) and the authority of revered men (Shi’a) keeps to versions of Islam on both sides of the Gulf of Aqaba.

Men quarrel; women aver: Salaam alaikum! I say, Amen!

Bailan yan sunidon tanu’

Antes gi Lali Fo’, sessu man-egga’ hit praktes bailan tau-ta deste mas yan palitu. Este siha na baila mapresenta gi fina’ fiesta yan espesiat na okasion. Animu i maestro yan maestra ma-esgaihon i famaguon.

I yeñgyuñg mas hulu’, papa’ yan oriya debi tod u parehu yan finu na doblada. I pañgpañg palitu gi entalu’ bailadot debi lokue’ un’ klassen sakudida. Gi tod u atmos banda guaha unu muma-manda i kinalamten. Duru lokue’ i kanta ni inakompapaña gitala yan ukulele.

Guine gi alacha, huli’e’ na guaha lokue’ bailan Japones mafanana’an “Awadodori” ‘nai mañasaunau famaguonta. Tihu tuñgu’ haf’ ha sifnifika lau bibu!

Dispues hu li’e’ gi TV otru baila ni tatnai huli’e’ antes. Linipes i prohimu, ha estira kanaña hulu’ kulan ha kombibida bendision ginen hilu’. Hu huñgog na lumiliku’ gi halom iya Pasifiku dispues ‘nai ha establese ayu na baila.

Ti hu fofohyan i prohimu lau na ti sinasade’ i lahen antigu antes? Gai tiempu gererun antigu umensinayau ausiliu? Na ti espiritun familia gaige gi hechuran kalabera ni mapega gi halom apusientu kulan yu’us antigu? Ti konfotmeyu’ ni lini’e’-hu sa’ mas gi mafabrika ke magahet na gai tinatete estorian tautau-ta.

■■■

Baila ni inakompapaña esalau (chant) sen ti huli’e’ este kumu patte gi kutturan Chamorro. Oppan kumu patte gi kutturan Karolinas. Kau otru este finabrika pot konbeñiente? I puntu: Yangin taya’ ‘nai siña un’ katsu gi bandan estorian antigu na natibu, pues maulegña kasse unna oppan deste tutuhon na finabrika-mu.

■■■

Este lokue’ i mañgge’ kantan Chamorro debi u guaha dididi’ inadahe ya umasuhaye kobiñienten mafanana’an “adaptation”. Yangin kantan Glenn Campbell ileghu na dinancheña yangin si Campbell hu ekuñgog ke matranslada ni megaiña lache. Fata’chong papa’ ya un’ tuge’ gai signifikasion na kanta. Muña hit mapunu’ “hafa adai” deste tutuhon esta i uttimu.

■■■

Hafa na kanta tinige’ mu ni oppan sumaga giya hagu? Kumeke ileghu maseha ñgai’an ni madandan ilegña i man-e’ ekuñgog na si binganu pat bingana ayu. Pot ihemplu: Ti Gi Un’ Palasyon I Riku tinige’ defuntu Tun Josen Pangelinan; kantan ha’anen gupot siha (Christmas) Mr. and Mrs. William S. Reyes; Papa’ I Kandet, Felix R. Fital; I Talu’ Gi Halom Tasi, Gregorio Sablan (Kilili’); Hafa Adai, Johnny Sablan; yan Hagu, Flora Basa Quan.

■■■

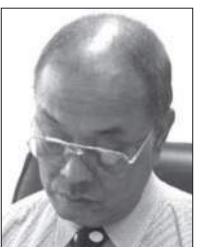
Miyon na kanta puru pot si neni. Ya esta na’ chaleg sa’ hafaisen mamaisague’ un’ kuestion ni guiya ha’ siña umoppe. Hombre dispachan maisa hau’ sino sugu’ gi mas hihot na troñkun siboyas. Piot ya guiya man-isague lau si neni ha sogne. Los uttimus guiya kumantayen maisague’ pot konfitmasyon malabidaña. Haf’ mohon na ti kantan abiu ginagau dispensasion? Dios mihu!

■■■

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



Finana’guen finu’ Chamorro: ‘Nai mama’ naufragu hau gi haf’ liñguahe yan kuttura-mu pues taigue usun hila’ nana-mu giya hagu. Sali siempre de umesurette hau gi sanhiyuñg haf’ hiniñgog-mu. Enfin, taya’ binabaña umeyag deste tutuhon haf’ liñguahi-mu.

Lamayot patte siempre fuminu’ American-Chamorro hau kulan mohon mafañagu hau betmehu yan buleñgchog. Gaige i propiu ineppe gi halom guma’.

Bula tropison yan estotbu na tiempu ginen ineyag usun diariu na finu’ Chamorro. Obligasion saina i para una’ seguru na ha tuñgu’ i patgon liñguahiña. Ti mapot: Tutuhon ginen halom gima’-mu finenina. Tat presisu para un’ kokone’ i patgon para eskuelan liñguahe lau gaige hau ha’ ni siña umenpatta ennu na leksion.

Pinasensia yan satton na kinimite presisu gi este na pinetsige.

■■■

Sige lahihi ñietun diñga’ hafaisenyu’ siha finu’ Chamorro. Bira birada ha saulagyu’ finu’ Palau yan Pohnpei. Hu leksiona na muña pumaya’ya’ sa’ siempre hilu’ aire ‘nai lumailai sin pisu. Ayu na dispues sige ha guadog haf’ kumeke ilegña palabra siha. Na’ magof lau puru famaguon iPhone yan iPad na tropa.

■■■

Sumen namagof i lamasan sena ‘nai mañgabales tod u. Matutuhon gi tinayuyot dispues sige mañena gi hilu’ konbetsasion familia. Un’ pisu ‘nai mas mafotma fitme na relasion yan inatuñgu’ entalu’ saina yan famaguon. Este na bintaha primera gi maseha haye na familia.

Hana’e i dos saina umekuñgog asuntun famaguon niha. Siha umesgaihon haf’ propiu na disposision mauleg yangin ha nesessita ayudu este na patte. Enfin gaige dos saina ni ma’a’ atan kumu luserun familia yan pisun inañgoghu.

■■■

Antes de bai’ sugu’ gi tenda huna’ seguru na guaha salape’ gi pottanmonedahu. Sige pa’gu hu aligau nesessidat-hu. Kada ratu hu rikonose kau hulañgag umapase. Sumen presisu inadahe gi entalu’ man-ritirau yan ayu rumesisibe ayudun social secutiry.

Mientras tantu, huli’e’ un’ prohima hahalan kinebrutu manadan uhañg halom gi karetiyaña. Sumeha-yu’ pot tihu lañgag kontra i dididi’ gi betsaghu. Suetteña sa’ ginen papet food stamps ni ma-apase deste ginen lagu. Dimalas-hu sa’ ginen papet pagamentoghu social security. Buenu!

CURIOUS

From Page 10

sent her hate mail.

It seems obvious that someone who is white could teach African-American history, could be a member of the NAACP, could even lead a chapter.

“For 106 years, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has held a long and proud tradition of receiving support from people of all faiths, races, colors and creeds,” the NAACP said in a statement that supported Dolezal. “One’s racial identity is not a qualifying criteria or disqualifying standard for NAACP leadership. The NAACP Alaska-Oregon-Washington State Conference stands behind Ms. Dolezal’s advocacy record.”

This case has prompted some fascinating conversations about racial identity.

No one seems to question the sincerity of Dolezal’s advocacy, or that she strongly connected with African-Americans.


But there’s still that one little question: When did you start deceiving people?

The answer to that doesn’t really seem so complex.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian


TODAY



Partly sunny with isolated showers.
East winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲87° ▼78°


FRIDAY



Mostly sunny with isolated showers.
East winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲88° ▼78°


SATURDAY



Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.

▲88° ▼78°


SUNDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼78°

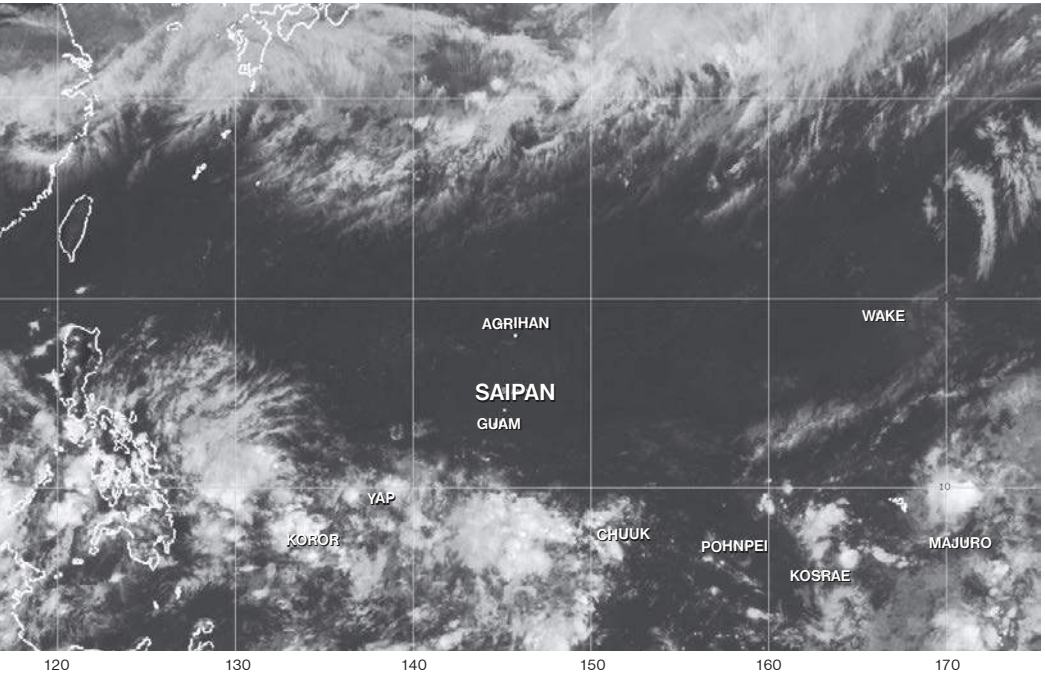
MONDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼78°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2015


Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from Mindanao across 8N130E through a weak circulation near Koror at 6N135E to end within a tropical disturbance centered at 5N144E. Patchy areas of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from across Yap and Palau to just southwest of Chuuk are between the equator and a line that runs from 14N130E to 11N136E to 8N150E. A near-equatorial trough runs eastward from a weak circulation just northeast of Kosrae at 7N164E to end within a trade-wind disturbance centered southeast of Majuro near 6N173E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms north of Kosrae are within 50 miles of a line from 9N161E to 6N165E and between the equator and a line that runs from 5N164E to 4N170E elsewhere. Patchy areas of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from the Marshall Islands and Tarawa to the date line are between the equator and 14N from 170E to 180. An upper-level low northeast of Wake Island at 25N168E is helping to trigger scattered showers east and northeast of Wake between 17N and 21N from 169E to 172E and north of a line from 22N171E to 24N174E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼81
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼80
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼80

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼54
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼65
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼82
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼54
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼63
Manila	Thundershowers	▲92	▼78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼41
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼78
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼63
Osaka	Showers	▲72	▼69
Paris	Showers	▲70	▼54
Pusan	Windy	▲78	▼65
Rome	Sunny	▲82	▼62
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼54
San Francisco	Fog	▲66	▼53
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼62
Tokyo	Rain	▲77	▼66
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲87	▼75



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
3:58 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
8:46 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
4:10 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.4 Feet
11:08 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	5:48 AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:48 AM	6:49 PM
Sunday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Monday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	7:06 AM	8:11 PM
Friday	7:59 AM	8:59 PM
Saturday	8:51 AM	9:43 PM
Sunday	9:41 AM	10:25 PM
Monday	10:29 AM	11:04 PM

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 28, 2015

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3	UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:15pm	3:55pm	6, 7 via Rota	UA5039	12:55pm	1:45pm	6, 7
UA5078	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 5	UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5038	3:05pm	3:55pm	2, 4	UA5077	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 5
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5	UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5	UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:15pm	2:50pm	6, 7	UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5039	3:20pm	3:55pm	6, 7	UA5038	2:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)				PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 6	DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:55am	4:25pm	3, 5, 6
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	3, 4	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
7C3401	5:25pm	9:10pm	3, 5, 6				
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM	UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:45pm+1	6 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:15pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM	UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM	UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM	UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM	UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5071	11:30pm	1:45pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM	UA180/5039	9:55pm	1:45pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM	UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA5039/179	2:15pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM	UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:05pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.								
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
			8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily			
			9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily			
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	ROTA TO SAIPAN		
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily						
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily						
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily						



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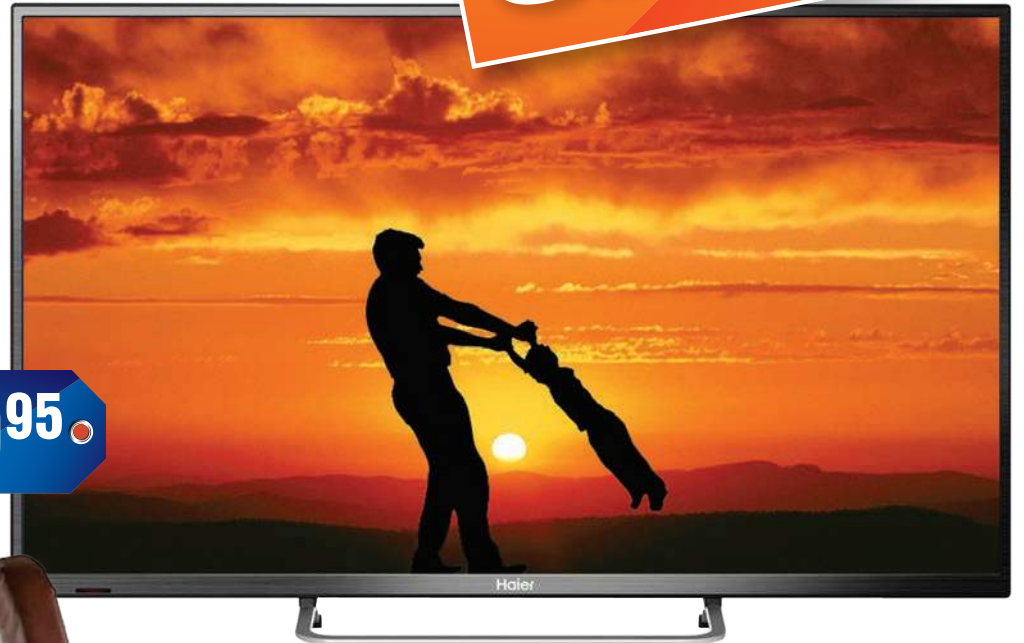
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Business

Delta unveils LAX Terminal 5 upgrades

The experience at Los Angeles International Airport's Terminal 5 today reflects the style of the city and its travelers as Delta Air Lines (NYSE: DAL) unveils the completion of a three-year, terminal-wide refurbishment, including the airline's first private check-in lounge, Delta ONE at LAX. The \$229-million Delta project was completed in partnership with Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) and the City of Los Angeles.

"We're fast on our way to becoming the airline of choice in Los Angeles by understanding what moves L.A.—its most prominent industries, its most desired destinations, and its discerning customers' required amenities for travel," said Delta president Ed Bastian. "Our investments in T5 now offer Angelenos a more premium airport experience, from check-in to take-off."

Since 2009, Delta has been the fastest-growing carrier at LAX and today offers flights to the most important cities for L.A.'s entertainment, technology, health care, and automotive industries. The facility enhancements at Terminal 5 are part of the airline's investment at LAX as Delta continues to grow its network in this global gateway.

"These upgrades to Terminal 5 are transforming visitors' first and last impressions of Los Angeles," said Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. "This investment by Delta is the latest in our now more than \$8-billion overhaul of LAX. Whether by upgrading nearly all of our terminals, bringing in ridesharing services



Delta ONE at LAX provides the most innovative premium check-in experience at LAX of any carrier and is consistent with Delta's other premium offerings on-board and at the airport.

to pick up passengers, or connecting the nation's second-busiest airport to rail, we're making LAX a world-class airport befitting a city that is the global capital of creativity, innovation and possibility. I am thrilled that Delta is growing its presence here in Los Angeles."

Delta ONE at LAX provides the most innovative premium check-in experience at LAX of any carrier and is consistent with Delta's other premium offerings on-board and at the airport. Customers flying in Delta One enter the terminal through a dedicated curbside entrance, leading to a private, modern check-in lounge with personalized luggage check, high-design atmosphere,

and a refreshment bar. Customers also access a dedicated security checkpoint directly from the Delta ONE at LAX lounge.

Additionally, a renovated Sky Club offers more space and an improved customer experience, including 100 additional seats; new shower suites and renovated bathrooms; an updated food area with café seating; and new furnishings and fixtures. New restaurants and shops in Terminal 5 feature celebrity chefs and retail brand names that reflect the cuisine, culture and lifestyle of Los Angeles.

"Delta has made it a priority to build our presence in Los Angeles, and our improvements

at LAX demonstrate the commitment of our award-winning employees to enhancing the travel experience not only in the air, but also on the ground,"

said Ranjan Goswami, Delta vice president-Sales, West. "From new food and beverage concepts throughout the terminal to the premium offering at Delta ONE at LAX, we're creating a range of experiences to cater to our domestic and international travelers visiting LAX."

Other Terminal 5 enhancements include new jet bridges; a renovated Sky Priority lobby; an expanded ticketing lobby and four additional security screen-

ing checkpoints; and new baggage carousels and international baggage recheck facilities.

"As a proud supporter of expanding operations in a socially and environmentally responsible manner, I applaud Delta for continuing to grow through operational excellence and for providing the best services for travelers in Los Angeles and around the world," said Los Angeles City Councilmember Tom LaBonge, chair of the city's Trade, Commerce & Tourism Committee.

"Delta has made investment and growth in the Los Angeles area a huge priority," said Los Angeles City Councilmember Mike Bonin, who represents LAX and surrounding neighborhoods. "I greatly appreciate Delta's commitment to helping LAX modernize into a world-class airport this city can be proud of."

In coordination with these completed enhancements, Delta is launching a new integrated marketing campaign customized to Los Angeles—dubbed "LAX to LUX"—to show Los Angeles travelers how Delta's thoughtful investments, touches of luxury and attention to detail

are setting a new standard for customers traveling in and out of LAX. The centerpiece of the campaign is LAXtoLUX.com, a digital hub where customers can learn more about Delta's premium offerings in LAX from curb to claim.

Delta's seat capacity in Los Angeles has increased more than 100 percent since 2009, and the airline has significantly expanded its Los Angeles network over the last year, adding service to new destinations including Shanghai, China, which launches July 9, and increasing the number of flights to destinations it already serves, including New York-JFK, to which Delta will add a ninth daily nonstop flight from LAX in August.

"LAWA and our airline partners are committed to continuing our initiatives to transform and modernize LAX into a facility befitting the hundreds of thousands of people who fly in and out of our region each day," said LAWA Executive Director Gina Marie Lindsey. "We applaud Delta's partnership with LAWA, their investment in Terminal 5 at LAX, and their commitment to developing an experience that truly caters to the modern traveler." (*Delta Air Lines*)



Kirk Kerkorian, billionaire and Las Vegas casino mogul, dies

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Billionaire Kirk Kerkorian, an eighth-grade dropout who built Las Vegas' biggest hotels, tried to take over Chrysler and bought and sold MGM at a profit three times, has died. He was 98.

He died Monday night in Beverly Hills.

The reserved, unpretentious Kerkorian spent much of his life trying to stay out of the spotlight and rarely gave interviews. He called himself a "small-town boy who got lucky."

He shunned glitzy Hollywood parties and movie premieres in favor of making deals. Rather than arrive at an event by limousine, he often drove him-

self in a Mercury station wagon.

"He was a very private guy who shunned the limelight, both in a business way and from a charitable standpoint," said Patty Glaser, his attorney of four decades.

After making his first fortune ferrying gamblers to Las Vegas with Trans International Airlines, he built the 30-story, 1,568-room International Hotel, the world's largest hotel when it opened in the late 1960s. He brought Elvis Presley to perform there in 1969 as the rock legend relaunched his live per-

formance career.

Although medium-size by today's Sin City standards, the hotel, now the Westgate Las Vegas, represented a major risk

when most properties averaged 250 rooms.

"I had total confidence or I wouldn't have gone into the project," Kerkorian later said. "I've always been bullish on Las Vegas."

When Kerkorian opened the first MGM Grand in Las Vegas in the 1970s, it was again the world's largest hotel, containing more than 2,000 rooms and a 1,200-seat

» Features Delta ONE at LAX, carrier's first private check-in lounge



Kerkorian

showroom. Years later, he would build another MGM Grand, this one with more than 5,000 rooms—again, the world's largest.

"He built the rooms and attractions to bring an incredibly broad base of affluent people to Las Vegas," Hal Rothman, a history professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, once said. Rothman died in 2007.

Elsewhere, Kerkorian bought and sold the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film studio three times, each time realizing a profit on his investment. He also invested heavily in the auto industry and made unsuccessful attempts to take over Chrysler.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

GOP leaders putting together trade rescue plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—After talks with President Barack Obama, top Republican leaders in Congress put together a quick rescue plan Tuesday for highly controversial, White House-backed trade legislation that Democrats derailed in the House last week. Officials said House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., were likely to split the stalled bill into two parts in hopes of sending them to the president separately, with Republicans providing most of the needed votes for one part, and Democrats for the other. The first would consist of stand-alone legislation allowing Congress to approve or reject any future trade deal, but not change it. The second measure would renew an expiring program of assistance to workers who lose their jobs, as well as extend uncontroversial trade rules for Caribbean Basin countries, Haiti and elsewhere that cleared the House last week. Congressional officials stressed that no final determination had been made

to pursue the rescue plan. They spoke on condition of anonymity because no formal announcement has been made.

Australia says US has little time to save Asia-Pacific deal

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Congress has only a few weeks left to pass key trade legislation that would clear the way for clinching an Asia-Pacific trade accord, Australia's trade minister said on Wednesday. The U.S. House of Representatives last week rejected legislation crucial to U.S. involvement in the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which intends to create a region-wide free trade area, including Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam. Trade Minister Andrew Robb would not speculate on how continuing negotiations in the House of Representatives might end. "We are literally one week of negotiation away from completing this extraordinary deal across 12 countries and 40 percent of the world's GDP," Robb told Australian Broadcasting Corp.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
2,096.29	2,096.29	5,055.55
+11.86	+11.86	+25.58
0.57%	0.57%	0.51%

EXCHANGE RATES

		Hong Kong Dollar	7.7524	Philippine Peso	45.065
Australian Dollar	1.2948	Indian Rupee	64.1154	Singapore Dollar	1.3441
British Pound	0.6392	Indonesian Rupiah	13355.5	South Korean Won	1117.595
Canadian Dollar	1.2297	Japanese Yen	123.5705	Swiss Franc	0.931
Chinese Yuan	6.2096	Malaysian Ringgit	3.7438	Taiwan Dollar	30.907
Euro	0.8885	New Zealand Dollar	1.4347	Thailand Baht	33.694

Nation

6 killed in California balcony collapse during a party

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP)—A 21st-birthday party thrown by a group of visiting Irish college students turned tragic early Tuesday when the fifth-floor balcony they were crammed onto collapsed with a sharp crack, spilling them about 50 feet onto the pavement. Six people were killed and seven seriously injured.

Police and fire and building officials were working to figure out why the small balcony broke loose from the stucco

apartment house a couple of blocks from the campus of the University of California, Berkeley. But one structural engineer said it may have been overloaded if, as city officials said, it was holding 13 people.

High school student Jason Biswas' family nearby was awakened by the noise.

"They thought there was an earthquake. But then we looked out the window and saw seven or eight people on the ground," the 16-year-old

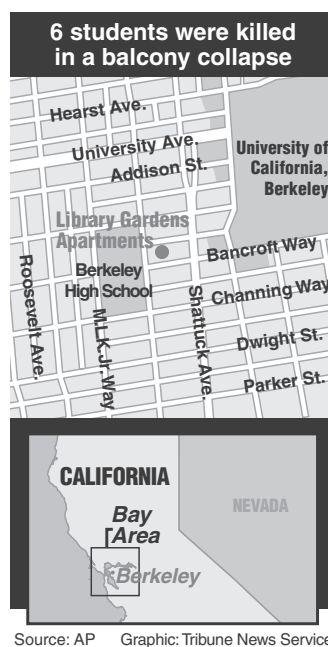
said. "There were piles of blood everywhere."

Five of the dead were 21-year-olds from Ireland who were in the country on J-1 visas that enable young people to work and travel in the U.S. over the summer, while the sixth victim was from California, authorities said.

The accident brought an outpouring of grief in Ireland from the prime minister on down, with the country's consul general in San Francisco calling it a "national tragedy."

Police had received a complaint about a loud party in the apartment about an hour before the accident but had not yet arrived when the metal-rail balcony gave way just after 12:30 a.m., spokesman Byron White said. It landed on the fourth-floor balcony just beneath it, leaving the pavement strewn with rubble and the red plastic cups that are practically standard at college parties.

"I just heard a bang and a lot of shouting," said Dan Sulli-



van, a 21-year-old student from Ireland who was asleep in the five-story building. Mark Neville, another Irish student in the building, said: "I walked out and I saw rubble on the street and a bunch of Irish students crying." The dead were identified as Ashley Donohoe, 22, of Rohnert

Park, California; and Olivia Burke, Eoghan Culligan, Niccolai Schuster, Lorcan Miller and Eimear Walsh, all from Ireland. The Irish students attended various colleges in Dublin.

The U.S. government's J-1 program brings 100,000 college students to the country every year, many landing jobs at resorts, summer camps and other attractions. The San Francisco Bay area is especially popular with Irish students, about 700 of whom are working and playing here this summer, according to Ireland's Consul General Philip Grant. Many work at Fisherman's Wharf and other tourist sites.

Sinead Loftus, 21, who attends Trinity College Dublin and is living this summer in a different apartment in Berkeley, said Berkeley is "the Irish hub." In fact, she said, "I've heard people complain there are too many people from Ireland here."

"It's student-friendly, it's warm and it's a lot cheaper than San Francisco," she said.

Investigators will look at things such as whether the balcony was built to code, whether it was overloaded and whether rain or other weather weakened it, said Kevin Moore, chairman of the structural standards committee of the Structural Engineers Association of California.

Balconies are exposed to the elements, "so deterioration can play a part," Moore said. Weather, "overloading, inadequate design, all these things come up in the investigations."

On Tuesday afternoon, engineering crews were inspecting jagged broken beams of wood sticking from the building, marking where the balcony had snapped off. Pieces of wood came away, falling to the ground, as the engineers touched them.

Berkeley officials said the building code at the time of construction required the balcony hold at least 60 pounds per square foot. The city's requirement for balconies has since been raised to 100 pounds.

Trump elbows into 2016 race

NEW YORK (AP)—The Donald is running for president—for real this time.

Real-estate mogul and reality-television star Donald Trump, who has brazenly flirted with running for office before but never followed through, announced Tuesday that he will seek the Republican nomination for president. Trump entered the race in a bombastic spectacle befitting a man whose businesses successes are matched by his penchant for self-promotion.

"All of my life, I have heard, a truly successful person, and even a modestly successful person, cannot run for public office—just can't happen," Trump said. "Yet that's the kind of mindset you need to make this country great again."

Trump, the 12th high-profile Republican to enter the 2016 race, announced his candidacy in a free-ranging 40-minute speech in which he boasted about his ability to fortify the border with Mexico to prevent "rapists" from entering the U.S. ("Nobody builds walls better than me") and invited President Barack Obama to play golf at one of his courses.

"Sadly, the American dream is dead," Trump said. "But if I get elected president, I will bring it back bigger and better and stronger than ever before, and we will make America great again."

With his usual bluster, he mixed boasts about his wealth with promises to spark the economy ("I will be the greatest jobs president that God ever created"), effortlessly defeat the Islamic State group and negotiate trade deals with China.

He pulled no punches with his fellow Republicans, finishing a riff on Jeb Bush by saying, "How the hell can you vote for this guy?"

The speech drew immediate scorn online from Republicans who fear Trump will turn an otherwise serious primary contest into a circus. Trump, well known from his years in the public eye, is polling just well enough at the moment to land a spot in one of the early Republican debates, potentially pushing a more estab-



Donald Trump
Republican

- Real estate magnate
- Host of "The Apprentice" 2004-present
- Beauty pageant owner

Issues:

- Anti-abortion rights
- Proposed eliminating corporate tax
- Proposed higher tax on imports

Source: Trump Organization, OnTheIssues.org

lished candidate off the stage.

"I just apologized to my toddler for bringing him up in a country where Donald Trump runs for Prez, gets better than 2% in the polls," veteran Republican strategist Liz Mair tweeted.

GOP operative Brendan Buck, who helped Mitt Romney's presidential campaign, tweeted: "Who do I blame for Trump running for president?"

The Democratic National Committee's response dripped with sarcasm, saying Trump "adds some much-needed seriousness that has previously been lacking from the GOP field."

About 100 supporters, most wearing Trump T-shirts handed out by the campaign, cheered when he and his wife Melania descended to the stage via an escalator, whisking them past The Trump Grille, The Trump Bar and a stand selling T-shirts with his catchphrase "You're Fired." The spectacle was orchestrated in the Manhattan tower bearing his name.

Trump has withdrawn from "The Celebrity Apprentice," the TV show he could not continue once he announced as a presidential candidate. He has hired campaign staff in early states and will have to file the required financial disclosure report required of declared presidential candidates.

Shark attack survivor: Fish was 'biting up my left arm'

A teen seriously wounded after a shark attack in North Carolina says he felt the big fish before he saw it and didn't realize what it was until it was "biting up my left arm."

"We were just playing around in the waves, and I felt a hit on my left calf," 16-year-old Hunter Treschl said in a videotaped interview released Tuesday night by the hospital where he is being treated. "I thought it felt like a big fish, and I started moving away. And then the shark bit my arm - off."

Treschl said he was able to make it on to the beach in Oak Island, North Carolina, with the help of a cousin who had been in the water with him. He said one of the people who ran to his aid had a belt with him that he used as a tourniquet to stop the bleeding, while others "were all helping me kind of stay calm until the ambulance got there."

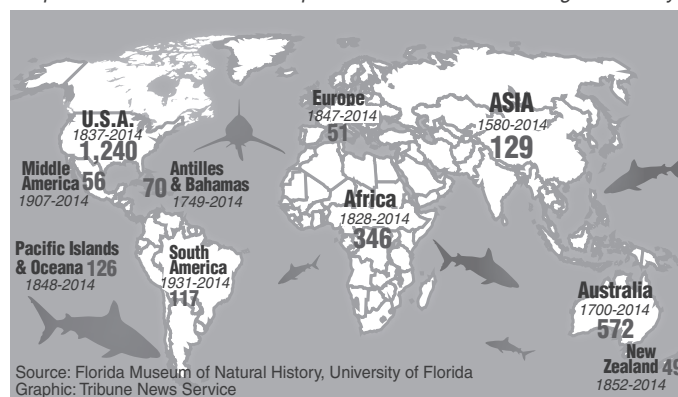
Choosing your own: Definition of race becoming fluid

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rachel Dolezal, born to white parents, self-identifies as black—a decision that illustrates how fluid identity can be in a diversifying America, as the rigid racial structures that have defined most of this country's history seem, for some, to be softening.

Dolezal resigned as the leader of the NAACP's Spokane, Washington, branch after questions surfaced about her racial identity. When asked directly on NBC's "Today" show Tuesday whether she is "an African-American woman," Dolezal replied, "I identify as black."

International shark attack history

Map of the world's confirmed unprovoked shark attacks throughout history



Source: Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida
Graphic: Tribune News Service

Asked if he ever saw the shark, Treschl said he first felt it hit his left leg before it hit his arm.

"That was the first time I saw it, when it was biting up my left arm," he said in the videotape, released Tuesday night by the New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, North Carolina.

The Colorado Springs, Colorado, teen says he is going to try to live a normal life despite the loss of his dominant hand.

"I have two options: I can try to live my life the way I was and make an effort to do that even though I don't have an arm, or I can just let this be completely debilitating and bring my life down and ruin it," he said.

"Out of those two, there's really only one that I would actually choose and that's to try to fight and live a normal life with the cards I've been dealt."

A little more than an hour before the shark attacked Treschl and about 2 miles away Sunday, a 12-year-old Ashboro girl, Kiersten Yow, lost her left arm below the elbow and suffered a leg injury when a shark bit her.

Yow was in stable condition Tuesday at N.C. Children's Hospital at the University of North Carolina, according to a statement from her parents, Brian and Laurie Yow.

"She has a long road to recovery that will include surgeries and rehabilitation, but her doctors at UNC expect she will keep her leg, and for that we are grateful," they said, appealing for time to deal with the trauma privately. (AP)

tion whether or not this biological basis for identity is a smart path to continue down in the future," said Camille Gear Rich, a University of Southern California law and sociology professor who writes about elective race choices.

Americans have become comfortable with people self-identifying their race, Rich said, "but often that invocation of identity based on a biological claim isn't backed up by anything else after the claim is made."

In the United States, there is an expectation that people would have a biological con-

nection to a racial or an ethnic identity they are claiming, said Nikki Khanna, a University of Vermont sociology professor. She co-authored a 2010 study that found increasing numbers of biracial adults were choosing to self-identify as multiracial or black instead of white.

"There really is no biological basis to race, but what I'm saying is that in our society the everyday person tends to think race must have some link to ancestry," Khanna said. "So we expect that when people self-identify with a particular group they must have some ancestral link to that group."

Asia

PH Muslim rebels lay down arms to reinforce peace deal

SULTAN KUDARAT, Philippines (AP)—The largest Muslim rebel group in the Philippines handed over dozens of assault weapons Tuesday in a symbolic gesture to reinforce a peace pact stalled by a public outcry over the killings earlier this year of dozens of police commandos in a fierce battle with insurgents.

President Benigno Aquino III and Al Haj Murad Ebrahim, the leader of the 11,000-strong Moro Islamic Liberation Front, witnessed the handover of 75 assault weapons, including mortar and rocket launchers, by the guerrillas near a southern rebel stronghold, along with the identification of a first batch of 145 guerrillas, who agreed to return to normal life with promises of government support.

The autonomy deal, signed by the government and the rebels last year after yearslong talks brokered by Malaysia, was expected to be one of the major legacies of Aquino, a reformist leader whose six-year term ends next year. But the involvement of the Moro rebels in fierce clashes that killed 44 police commandos, who hunted and killed a top Southeast Asian terror suspect on



Jan. 25, ignited public criticism of the Moro insurgent group and the peace agreement.

The passage of a law in the Philippine Congress that would authorize the creation of a more powerful Muslim autonomous region in the country's south has been delayed. It is uncertain if the guerrillas would accept a watered-down version of the autonomy bill drafted by govern-

ment and rebel representatives.

The uncertainty has led to fears that impatient guerrillas may return to violence. A few hundred rebels broke off from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front about five years ago when the main insurgent group pursued peace talks with Aquino's government.

Murad said while Tuesday's event is about statistics for some

Man of peace to become Afghan wartime defense minister

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—War-torn Afghanistan may soon have a defense minister, nine months after the new government was formed and amid some of the toughest fighting since the Taliban's insurgency began nearly 14 years ago.

Masoom Stanekzai is better known as a peacemaker than a battlefield strategist, having led the High Peace Council negotiating body charged with ending the conflict with the Taliban, but now he is directing the war. He is expected to be confirmed soon by parliament, though the law allows him to assume the post in an acting capacity.

His appointment will complete President Ashraf Ghani's

Cabinet as the military tackles an invigorated Taliban without the backing of international forces, which ended their combat mission last year.

Stanekzai takes the job as the Taliban are redefining their war against Kabul, joining forces with other militant groups and spreading the fight to every corner of the country. A change in tactics has taken Afghan security forces by surprise and forced them to spread ever-thinner as their casualty rates soar.

NATO figures show that between Jan. 1 and May 7, Afghan security forces saw a 63-percent increase in those killed and wounded in action as the Taliban

spread across the country from their traditional strongholds in the east and south bordering Pakistan.

The figures show 2,322 army, police and local security personnel were killed during that period, 53 percent more than the same period in 2014. From the 2001 U.S.-led invasion that toppled the Taliban until the drawdown at the end of last year, America lost 2,217 soldiers.

The Taliban are threatening major cities and overrunning remote districts, attacking "on a greater scale, with full force and in many places at once," said Muhammad Jan Rasul Yar, the deputy governor of southern Helmand province.

a free-market economy, and Myanmar has a parliament for the first time in more than two decades. But Amnesty says such actions belie claims of liberalization since the country started a democratic transition in 2011 from a military regime to an elected civilian government that vowed democratic reforms.

Hong Kong election bill faces likely defeat by lawmakers

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong election reform proposals that sparked massive street protests last year in the southern Chinese financial center are set

to be presented to lawmakers, who will likely reject them. The proposals tabled for a legislature debate Wednesday would allow the former British colony's top leader to be chosen by voters through direct elections rather than by a 1,200-member panel of Beijing-friendly elites. But voters would only be able to choose from a set of candidates screened by the panel, as required by China's central government. Pro-democracy leaders have blasted the plan as "fake democracy." Hong Kong's government needs the support of at least two-thirds of the 70 lawmakers to win approval.

World

Al-Qaida No. 2 leader killed in US airstrike in Yemen

CAIRO (AP)—A U.S. airstrike has killed al-Qaida's second-most-powerful figure, the head of its Yemeni branch, dealing the terror network its biggest blow since the killing of Osama bin Laden at a time when it is vying with the Islamic State group for the mantle of global jihad.

Nasir al-Wahishi was the latest in a series of senior figures from al-Qaida's powerful Yemeni branch eliminated by U.S. drone attacks over the past five months, including its top ideologue and a senior military commander. The U.S. has intensified its campaign, trying to push back the group as it has captured new territory in Yemen by taking advantage of the southern Arabian nation's chronic chaos.

In confirming the killing of al-Wahishi in a June 9 drone attack, the White House said Tuesday that his death "removes from the battlefield an experienced terrorist leader

and brings us closer to degrading and ultimately defeating these groups."

The U.S. activity against al-Qaida has not been limited to Yemen. Over the weekend, a U.S. airstrike in Libya targeted an al-Qaida-linked militant commander, Mokhtar Belmokhtar, who led a 2013 attack on an Algerian gas complex that killed 35 hostages, including several Americans. U.S. officials are still trying to confirm whether he was killed in the raid.

Al-Wahishi was a former aide to bin Laden who, after the al-Qaida affiliate in Saudi Arabia was crushed in the mid-2000s, rebuilt it in his Yemeni homeland and turned it into the terror network's most dangerous branch. He also served as deputy to Ayman al-Zawahri, who succeeded bin Laden in 2011 as



al-Wahishi

the network's leader. The U.S. had put a bounty of up to \$10 million on al-Wahishi.

The Yemeni branch, known as al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, or AQAP, claimed responsibility for January's attack on the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo that killed 12 people. It also attempted several direct attacks on the United States, including a botched 2009 plot to bomb an American passenger jet.

Al-Wahishi's death is a major loss for al-Qaida as it struggles to compete with the Islamic State group, an al-Qaida breakaway that has seized vast swaths of Syria and Iraq and spawned its own affiliates elsewhere in the region. The Islamic State group has also gained loyalists in Yemen in competition with al-Qaida.

Islamic State group loses key town on Turkish border

BEIRUT (AP)—For more than a year, the Syrian town of Tal Abyad on the Turkish border provided a lifeline for the Islamic State group, allowing it to ferry foreign fighters to its self-proclaimed capital of Raqqa and sell oil on the black market.

The loss of the town to the Kurds on Tuesday is a huge setback directly affecting the extremist group's operational structure and its ability to wage war, making it more difficult to attract volunteers and potentially turning the tide against the militants in Syria and Iraq.

It marked a significant reversal of fortunes for the group that only last month generated alarm through its lightning capture of the provincial capital of Ramadi in Iraq's Anbar

province and the historic town of Palmyra in central Syria.

"It shows that the Islamic State group is weaker than it seems despite their earlier victories," said Wladimir van Wilgenburg, a political analyst who writes for The Jamestown Foundation, a U.S.-based research center.

Analysts said the fall of Tal Abyad is potentially the most damaging loss for the Islamic State group—known by the acronyms ISIS or ISIL in English and Daesh in Arabic—since it declared its self-styled caliphate stretching across northern Syria and a third of Iraq a year ago.

While losing the town of Kobani to the Kurdish fighters of the People's Protection Units, or YPG, in January was

a symbolic blow to IS, the defeat in Tal Abyad presents a real setback that may lead to a serious degrading of the group's operations.

Many had predicted a long, drawn-out war with the YPG before the militants would relinquish their hold on Tal Abyad—if at all. Only 50 miles (80 kilometers) north of Raqqa, the town was a major commercial avenue for the group, a smuggling hub for everything from foreign fighters to food and other supplies.

It took less than a month of fighting in the province and only two days for Tal Abyad to fall, with the militants melting away. Some fled to Raqqa, while others went over the border to Turkey, blending in with a flood of refugees.

Russia to add 40 new intercontinental missiles this year

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia's military will add over 40 new intercontinental ballistic missiles this year alone that are capable of piercing any missile defenses, President Vladimir Putin said Tuesday in a blunt reminder of the nation's nuclear might amid tensions with the West over Ukraine.

Putin spoke at the opening of an arms show at a shooting range in Alabino just west of Moscow, a huge display intended to showcase Russia's resurgent military.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg accused the Russians of "nuclear saber-rattling," and said that was one of the reasons the west-

ern military alliance has been beefing up its ability to defend its members.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, briefing reporters via teleconference from Boston, where he is recovering from surgery on a broken leg, called Putin's announcement concerning.

"We're trying to move in the opposite direction," Kerry said. "We have had enormous cooperation from the 1990s forward with respect to the structure of nuclear weapons in the former territories of the Soviet Union. And no one wants to see us step backwards."

He said Putin could be positing.

"It's really hard to tell," Kerry said. "But nobody should hear that kind of an announcement from the leader of a powerful country and not be concerned about the implications."

Russia-West relations have plunged to their lowest point since Cold War times over Moscow's annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and support for a pro-Russia separatist insurgency in eastern Ukraine. The U.S. and the EU have slapped Russia with economic sanctions, and Washington and its NATO allies have pondered an array of measures in response to Russia's moves.



ASIAN BRIEFS

Amnesty accuses Myanmar government of intimidating media

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Amnesty International says that Myanmar's government is using threats, harassment and imprisonment to intimidate the media ahead of national elections later this year. The London-based human rights group said in a statement Wednesday that efforts to restrict freedom of expression have intensified over the past year, with at least 10 members of the media currently in prison. All were jailed in the last 12 months. Significant changes have been made in moving the country toward

Environment

By LOUIS SAHAGUN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

JOSHUA TREE, Calif.—Under canopies of dead angular branches and drooping fronds, University of California, Riverside ecologist Cameron Barrows made his way across a forest of skeletal Joshua trees that have not reproduced in decades.

As Barrows explained, it's a tough time to be a Joshua tree. Climate change is taking an enormous toll, and the current drought has hastened the decline of a species that is regarded as the symbol of California deserts.

"For Joshua trees, hotter, drier conditions are a problem—but a bigger problem is that what little rainfall occurs evaporates faster," Barrows said. "So, seedlings shrivel up and die before they can put down strong roots."

The region, including nearby Joshua Tree National Park, has not reached average precipitation rates of about 4 inches in several years. So far this year, it's gotten 1.71 inches of rain.

If warmer, drier conditions continue in the coming decades, scientific modeling suggests the trees will lose 90 percent of their current range in the 800,000-acre park by the end of the century.

With funding from federal wildlife officials, Barrows is trying to find ways to assess the effects of climate change on Joshua trees and the many species they shelter: yucca moths, skipper butterflies, termites, ants, desert night lizards, kangaroo rats and 20 species of birds including Scott's orioles, lad-

Drought hastens decline of the Joshua tree, California's desert symbol



der-backed woodpeckers and great horned owls.

There is more at stake than the fate of the park's estimated 2.5 million Joshua trees, said biologist Rebecca R. Hernandez, a post-doctoral fellow at UC Berkeley. "Beyond its im-

portance as a critical refuge for desert species, the Joshua tree is a cultural signature of California's desert landscape," Hernandez said.

Joshua trees, which grow in the Mojave Desert and nowhere else, have become mainstays

for movies, fashion shoots, advertising campaigns and wedding ceremonies. The one that adorned the cover of U2's 1987 album "The Joshua Tree" became a pilgrimage site for fans from around the world until it was blown over by strong winds

in 2000.

The species scientists know as *Yucca brevifolia* isn't actually a tree; it's a succulent. Joshua trees grow to 40 feet high, live more than 200 years and bloom sporadically. In 2013, extensive stands were

festooned with yellow and white bell-shaped blossoms that drew tourists eager to take in the scenery before the bloom wilted in the harsh desert sun.

They were named for the biblical figure Joshua by members of a band of Mormons traveling through the Cajon Pass back to Utah in 1857. They imagined the trees as shaggy prophets, their outstretched limbs pointing the way to their promised land.

During the 1980s, development in desert boom towns such as Lancaster and Palmdale replaced about 200,000 Joshua trees with housing tracts and shopping centers. Many more were removed over the last decade to make way for renewable energy facilities.

In the 1990s, moist El Nino conditions triggered explosive growth of exotic grasses among the trees. Feeding off nitrogen-laden smog wafting in from Los Angeles, the grasses have established themselves, leaving Joshua tree forests vulnerable to large-scale brush fires such as one that charred 14,000 acres in 1999.

Now, the biggest threat is climate change, which most of the trees may not be able to overcome. The globe's average temperature is expected to rise roughly by an additional 5 degrees to 7 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of the century, scientists say.

Computer models depicting the distribution of suitable habitat after a roughly 5-degree Fahrenheit rise show Joshua trees retaining just 2 percent to 10 percent of their current range, according to studies led by Barrows and published in the scientific journal *Biological Conservation*.

"Since they grow for about 200 years, we won't see massive die-offs in our lifetime," park Superintendent David Smith said. "But we will see less recruitment of new trees."

In a collaborative effort launched this year, the park, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and a research team led by Barrows organized the first long-term project designed to monitor the Joshua trees' responses to climate change and drought.

The data, collected with help from volunteer citizen scientists from the nonprofit group Earthwatch, will create baseline information to help guide conservation decisions as Joshua trees retreat to cooler and wetter higher elevations. The group has also established monitoring stations to gauge changes in the distributions of Joshua trees and species they support.

Will the region have to change its name one day to, say, "Creosote National Park"?

India, China need cleaner air just to keep death rate steady

By KATY DAIGLE
AP ENVIRONMENT WRITER

NEW DELHI (AP)—Never mind lowering the rate of death from air pollution in India and China. Just keeping those rates steady will demand urgent action to clear the skies, according to a report published Tuesday.

The findings—gleaned from a new global model for how changes in outdoor air pollution could translate into changes in disease rates—highlight a demographic quirk of Asia's two fastest-growing economies, where young populations have so far kept pollution-related mortality relatively low even amid breakneck economic development at steep environmental cost.

Both countries have looked to coal-fired power plants to boost electricity and fuel growth. Both have seen explosions in the number of vehicles on the roads. And both have hundreds of millions of impoverished people still relying on burning wood, kerosene or whatever they can grab at the garbage dump to build fires for

cooking or keeping warm on winter nights.

But as their populations age, more people will become susceptible to conditions such as heart disease, cancer or stroke that are caused or exacerbated by air pollution. Already, Asian nations led by India and China account for 72 percent of the total 3.7 million annual deaths from outdoor air pollution—more than AIDS and malaria combined.

Neither nation is anywhere near meeting air quality guidelines set by the World Health Organization. In India, pollution levels are still on the rise.

"The impact of particulate air pollution on preventable deaths is far larger than most people realize," said Howard Frumkin, dean of the University of Washington's School of Public Health and an environmental health specialist who was not involved in the study.

In fact, if the entire world brought pollution levels down to WHO recommended levels, 2.1 million premature deaths could be prevented each year, according to the study, which

was published in the journal *Environmental Science & Technology*.

India and China would need to reduce average levels of tiny, inhalable particulate matter called PM 2.5 by 20 to 30 percent merely to offset their demographic changes and keep mortality rates steady, the study shows. That still won't get them to the WHO's recommendation of 10 micrograms per cubic meter, but it could help avoid several hundred thousand premature deaths every year.

"The opportunity for preventing premature deaths by cleaning up the air is enormous ... especially in China and India, where pollution levels are high and the exposed populations large and densely concentrated," Frumkin said.

Actually reducing pollution-related mortality in China, India and other countries with extreme pollution would require major action. Cutting mortality in half, for example, would take an average 68 percent reduction in PM 2.5 from 2010 levels, according to the study. If pollution

levels were to remain stable, Indian mortality would go up 21 percent and China's 23 percent.

"These populations are getting older, and the diseases that air pollution affects will become more important," said the study's lead author, Josh Apte, an assistant professor of environmental engineering at the University of Texas, Austin.

The study—one of the first to tackle the question of how much cleaner a country's air needs to be to reduce premature mortality—combines global satellite pollution data, ground pollution measures, population statistics and globally recognized mortality rates for five key diseases for which air pollution is a risk factor in order to calculate the potential benefits from hitting certain pollution-reduction targets.

The WHO last month declared air pollution the world's largest single environmental health risk, and pledged to come up with a global plan to start cleaning up the skies within a year. Ultimately, though, it will be up to national governments to act.

While Asia's developing countries are considered today's big air polluters, the global mortality study shows that even less-polluted Western nations could collectively save up to a half-million people from premature death each year by cutting PM 2.5 concentrations by 25 percent.

"Everybody thinks that the air in the West is fine. But there are relatively large health benefits that can be found from further cleaning the air in already clean locations," said Julian Marshall, a co-author and associate professor of environmental engineering at the University of Minnesota. "It's a reminder that there still are health effects from air pollution" even at low levels.

"In cleaner parts of the world, air pollution still has a significant toll, but it is hard to visualize," said Bert Brunekreef, director of the Institute for Risk Assessment Sciences at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands, who was not involved in the study. "On death certificates, nobody mentions air pollution as a cause of death."

Life & Style

REVIEW:

By JAKE COYLE
AP FILM WRITER

"Inside Out," the latest Pixar punch to the heart, navigates the labyrinth of a young girl's mind in an antic, candy-colored romp through childhood memory to arrive, finally, gloriously, at epiphany.

By now it's a familiar Pixar trajectory from wackadoodle to waterworks: We know it's coming and we know there's nothing we can do about it. The wave of tender nostalgia is going to crash down and wash us—happy, misty-eyed saps—out to sea, maybe with Nemo and Dora swimming alongside.

Those moments, sentimental and sublime, come in unlikely places: the sudden understanding of a forgotten toy, the astonished realization of a bitter food critic, the flashback of a grouchy old man. The epiphanies are almost invariably about giving into the natural course of life and time: An acceptance, a letting go.

Part of the magic is that even when out in space or in a rat-run restaurant, Pixar films stay earthbound. What's most striking about "Inside Out" isn't its inside-the-brain gee-whiz design, but that it's probably Pixar's most directly human story yet: An 11-year-old girl, growing up.

It's an event observed and subtly manipulated by a gaggle of voices in the head of young Riley: Joy (Amy Poehler), an effervescent, pixie-haired burst of positivity; Sadness (Phyllis Smith), a blue-tinged, bespectacled moose; Anger (Lewis

Black), a red block of fury; Fear (Bill Hader), a perpetually nervous squiggle; and Disgust (Mindy Kaling), a snobbish socialite.

From inside the "headquarters" of her head, the quintet have all watched Riley (Kait-

lyn Dias) compile personality-forming memories, each of which rolls into headquarters like a glowing pinball, to be filed away accordingly in places like long-term memories or the more central "core memories."

Things begin going haywire

when Riley and her parents (Diane Lane, Kyle MacLachlan) move from Minnesota—the scene of her idyllic, hockey-playing youth—to a rundown San Francisco town house. Sadness begins creeping into her core memories, jeopardizing

Joy's previously unchallenged sunny supremacy.

In trying to prevent this scourge of unhappiness, Joy and Sadness get sucked into the recesses of Riley's mind where they must find a way back through a maze of realms like

Imagination Land and Dream Productions, a nightly movie studio of dreams.

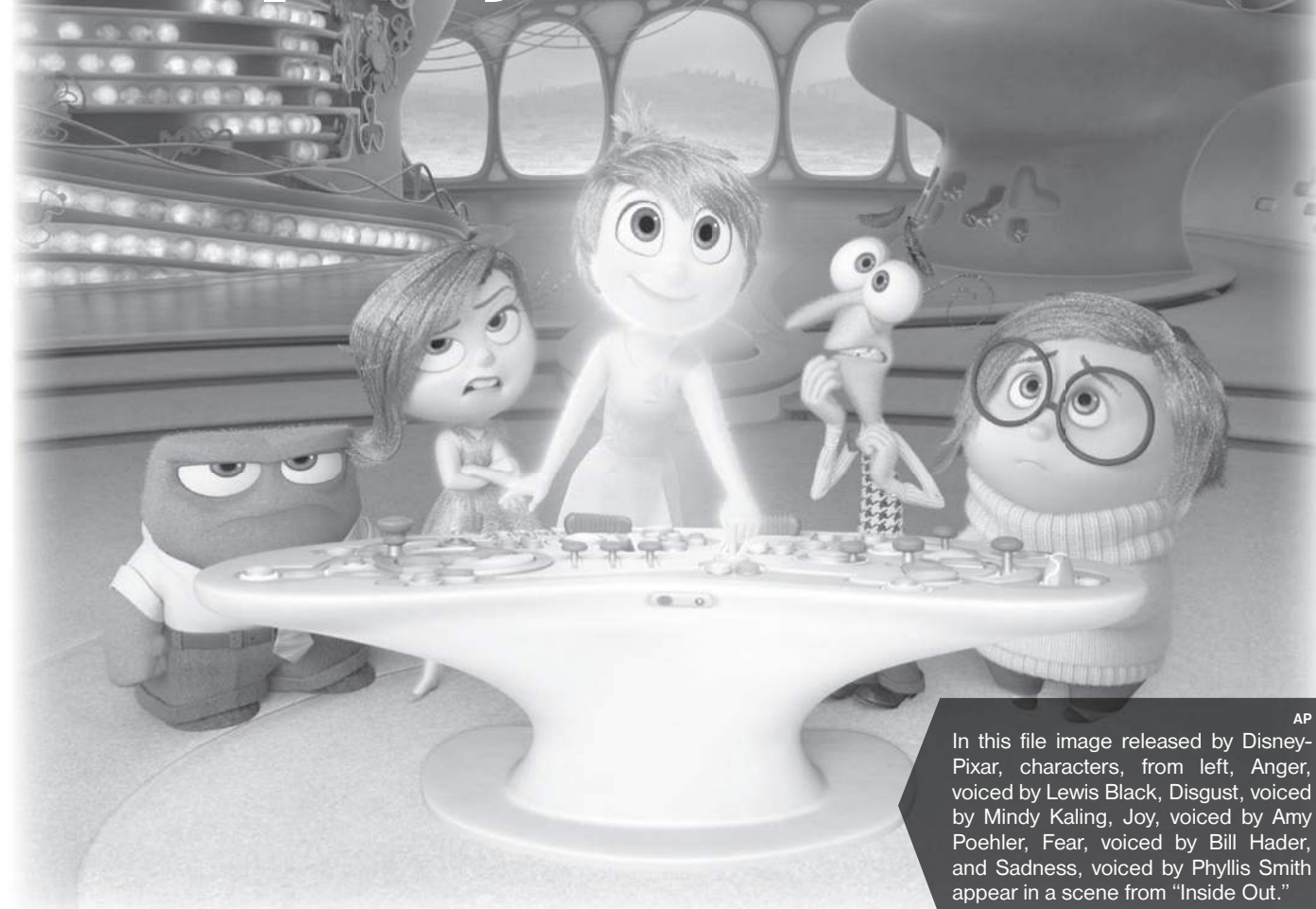
The interior architecture is bright and clever—there's literally a train of thought—but the psychology puns drag. Much of the mindscape adventures will surely sail over the heads of many younger viewers, while others will eventually tire of its "Inception"-like trip into the brain. (An exception is Bing Bong, an abandoned imaginary friend played by Richard Kind, who cries candy and seems created to prove how Pixar can make literally anything break your heart.)

Better is the tenderly depicted daily life of Riley as she struggles to adjust to a new school and city. "Inside Out," directed by Pete Docter and co-directed by Ronnie Del Carmen, steadily builds in emotional power, aided massively by Michael Giacchino's beautifully soft and sweet score (he also scored "Up" and "Ratatouille").

"Inside Out" may be about a young girl but it's really from a parent's perspective—even the inside voices are guardians of Riley, adjusting as she matures out of childhood. As he did with "Up," Docter has married a rainbow-colored palate with a gentle fable, mixing real and fantasy sometimes awkwardly but always with warm-heartedness.

What's most refreshing about "Inside Out" is its inversion of the standard prescriptions of big-budget animation: It's ultimately about the importance of embracing sadness. This, you may have noticed, isn't exactly the conventional moral one generally finds at the multiplex.

In Pixar's 'Inside Out,' the cacophony of childhood



AP
In this file image released by Disney-Pixar, characters, from left, Anger, voiced by Lewis Black, Disgust, voiced by Mindy Kaling, Joy, voiced by Amy Poehler, Fear, voiced by Bill Hader, and Sadness, voiced by Phyllis Smith appear in a scene from "Inside Out."

Nintendo charts return of 'Zelda,' 'Star Fox' at E3

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Link is set to return to the Nintendo 3DS before he arrives on the Wii U.

Nintendo announced plans Tuesday during the Electronic Entertainment Expo for a multiplayer-focused installment of "The Legend of Zelda" on the Nintendo 3DS set to debut this fall. However, the Japanese gaming giant didn't provide any more details about a previously teased open-world "Zelda" edition coming to the Wii U console next year.

"The Legend of Zelda: Tri Force Heroes" for Nintendo's handheld Nintendo 3DS system was shown off during a prerecorded video presentation Tuesday, with sword-wielding hero Link teaming up with a pair of allies. The trio

could climb atop each other to take down taller enemies and reach higher locations.

"This time, I wanted players to cooperatively enjoy more serious 'Zelda' gameplay elements, like solving puzzles and going through dungeons," said "Tri Force Heroes" director Hiromasa Shikata during Nintendo's E3 presentation.

The previous "Zelda" adventure, "A Link Between Worlds," was released in 2013 for Nintendo 3DS and sold more than 2.5 million copies. While previous "Zelda" games have been released for the Wii U, Nintendo has yet to premiere an original "Zelda" entry for the console, which has lagged behind Sony's PlayStation 4 and Microsoft's Xbox One.

For the Wii U, Nintendo

showcased "Super Mario Maker," which invites gamers' to create "Super Mario" levels with the Wii U GamePad, as well as "Star Fox Zero," a space combat game that utilizes the GamePad to project a view of vulpine fighter pilot Star Fox's cockpit, while more cinematic scenes are shown on TV. Both titles are set for release later this year.

"You can have that first-person and third-person view at the same time, managing those two different views as you play the game," said Nintendo executive and designer Shigeru Miyamoto during a preview event Sunday morning.

Nintendo displayed a few new figures for its "amiibo" toys-to-life franchise, including the guitar-playing canine K.K. Slider from "Animal



AP
In this June 11, 2014 file photo, Japanese video game designer Shigeru Miyamoto introduces the Nintendo's Mario Maker during a press event at the Nintendo booth at the Electronic Entertainment Expo, in Los Angeles.

Crossing" and a pixelated rendition of Mario that will be released in honor of the 30th anniversary of "Super Mario Bros." Nintendo also unveiled four figures—Donkey Kong, Bowser and their accompanying vehicles—that can be em-

ployed in Nintendo games and the upcoming Wii U edition of "Skylanders: SuperChargers." It marks the first collaboration between a pair of toys-game franchises.

"If you put the figure on a 'Skylanders' portal, they act as

a Skylander, but you can you can twist the base and switch it to 'amiibo,'" said Karthik Bala, CEO of "Skylanders: SuperChargers" developer Vicarious Visions. "It can be used as an 'amiibo' in another Nintendo game."

Miley Cyrus brings agender date to amfAR gala

NEW YORK (AP)—Miley Cyrus and late-night talk show host Andy Cohen were recognized Tuesday in New York at amfAR's sixth annual Inspiration Gala for their work in the fight against AIDS.

"It's really fun to be in the company of Miley Cyrus," said Cohen, the host of Bravo's "Watch What Happens Live." "Our names have never been spoken in the same sentence so I'm honored tonight. She's an original and she's

a fighter and she speaks to a whole, new generation."

The 22-year-old Cyrus is an outspoken advocate for the LGBTQ community and has said she has had relationships with men and women.

She's also launched a new campaign on Instagram where she posts photos of people across the gender spectrum. She brands the photos with the hashtag (hash)InstaPride.

Transgender model Andreja Pejic applauded Cyrus for

her work.

"I think she is using her celebrity in a positive way and to ... create some change," Pejic said. "It's nice to see and I don't think a lot of celebrities do that. ... She's a very genuine person and you can definitely see that she's very excited for this opportunity and the charity and so it's really amazing to see."

Cyrus arrived at the red carpet with photographer, poet and former contestant on Oxy-

gen's "The Glee Project," Tyler Ford. She posted a photo of Ford on Instagram prior to the event saying, "Tyler is a queer, biracial, agender person, whose pronouns are they/them/theirs."

The Inspiration Gala included a runway show, awards presentation and performance by Mary J. Blige.

amFAR is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the support of AIDS research and HIV prevention and education.



AP
Honoree Miley Cyrus, right, arrives with friend Tyler Ford at the 6th Annual amfAR New York Inspiration Gala at Spring Studios on Tuesday, June 16, 2015, in New York.

Judge awards Beastie Boys \$668,000 in legal fees after trial

NEW YORK (AP)—The maker of the Monster Energy drink must pay \$668,000 of the Beastie Boys' legal fees after the rappers chose to win at all costs in their copyright violation trial, a decision that resulted in a \$1.7 million jury verdict in their favor, a judge says.

U.S. District Judge Paul Engelmayer wrote in a ruling Monday that his review of the band's legal bills suggests that the "Beastie Boys opted to pay for, and received, the 'Cadillac Escalade,' not the 'Honda Civic'" of legal representation.

He said his attorney fee award fell well short of the \$2.4 million in legal fees that was sought from the Corona, California-based Monster Energy Co., but it was still sizeable enough that the band will come out ahead by more than \$532,000 above its reasonable costs.

Last June, the Beastie Boys—known in part for the anthem "(You Gotta) Fight for Your Right (To Party!)" off their 1986 debut album—won their verdict from a federal jury weighing the value of five songs used by Monster without authorization in a video.

Engelmayer wrote that the lawsuit brought by two surviving Beastie Boys and the wife of deceased band member and gravelly voiced rapper Adam "MCA" Yauch resulted in a hard-fought legal match.

"Presiding over trial and hearing the surviving Beastie Boys' testimony, it was apparent to the court that this case had great personal significance to them," he said. "Monster's commercial exploitation of the band's music and songs, and what the Beastie Boys perceived as Monster's crass mis-

appropriation of the name of the recently deceased Yauch in its video promoting its energy drinks, appeared to have deeply offended plaintiffs."

Yauch died of cancer in May 2012 at age 47.

The judge said Beastie Boys' band members Adam "Ad-Rock" Horovitz and Michael "Mike D" Diamond approached the case "with special zeal," testifying that as a matter of principle they have not licensed their music for product advertisements and would have turned down Monster if it had asked for permission.

Foo Fighters cancels all European after Grohl injury



NEW YORK (AP)—Dave Grohl managed to finish a concert with a broken ankle, but he can't finish the Foo Fighters tour.

The Foo Fighters announced Tuesday that they're canceling the rest of their European tour after the frontman was injured in fall onstage in Sweden. Grohl momentarily left to get medical attention, but then managed to finish the show with a bandaged leg. Later,

AP
In this Nov. 2, 2014 file photo, Dave Grohl of the Foo Fighters performs at the Voodoo Music Experience in New Orleans.

the band tweeted an X-ray of Grohl's fractured foot.

Grohl had surgery Monday and his recovery timeline is unclear. In a separate statement, Grohl thanked fans for their support and offered apologies, saying it killed him to cancel the shows: "I'm afraid it's just not physically possible for me at the moment."

Grohl also recounted the accident and why he got back onstage: "I couldn't stand the thought of such a perfect night going to waste!"

The band's canceled dates include in the United Kingdom and Belgium.

BBC's hit car show 'Top Gear' to return with new host



AP
In this June 1, 2011 file photo, Chris Evans poses for photographers, in London. The BBC says its hit automotive TV show "Top Gear" will return to the airwaves with a new host replacing scandal-tainted Jeremy Clarkson, it was reported on Tuesday, June 16, 2015.

LONDON (AP)—The BBC says its hit automotive TV show "Top Gear" will return to the airwaves with a new host replacing scandal-tainted Jeremy Clarkson.

The broadcaster says radio and TV personality Chris Evans has signed a three-year deal to lead a new lineup for the show, which has won a huge following with its mix of car tips, driving stunts and jokey banter.

Clarkson was fired in March after he punched a producer during an off-set altercation. The show's two other hosts also left.

The incident threatened the future of one of BBC's most popular shows—and biggest international earners. Clarkson's brash, blokey persona was a large part of "Top Gear's" appeal to fans.

Evans said Tuesday he was thrilled to be hosting "my favorite program of all time."

Man sends widow on a guilt trip for trying to end affair

DEAR ABBY: I have been having an affair with a married man for eight years. At first, both of us were married, but my husband died two years ago. Since then, my lover and I have grown closer, but he won't leave his wife because of his kids.

I love him dearly, but cannot go on living life this way. He doesn't want me to see other people. Every time I try to end it, he talks me out of it and makes me feel guilty for trying. I need help, please.

MESSED UP IN MINNESOTA

DEAR MESSED UP: The little voice that's telling you you can't go on living this way is your rational thinking. The one that's talking you out of moving on is coming from a selfish individual who is thinking only of his own interests and not yours.

As it stands, your lover has a harem. If that's fine with you, I can't change your mind. But if it isn't, remove the blinders from your eyes and end this romance because it is going nowhere and probably never will.

DEAR ABBY: I'm in a quandary. Many years ago, we rescued a precious 4-year-old and her newborn brother from a horrific living situation and tried to adopt them. After more than a year and 16 contentious court hearings, we were devastated when the court returned them to their mother. I'm sure they have no idea how hard

we fought for them, and I still love them dearly and keep tabs on them as best I can.

The girl is now 18, and I am retiring and will be moving away. I have a bin of baby things, school mementos, etc. for each of them that I've kept all these years, and which I will return to them. However, I also have the many photographs that documented their indescribable living conditions, the police reports, the court documents, etc. I strongly feel these should be destroyed, because to see and read this graphic information would be far too traumatic and would serve no good purpose. What do you think? Is it right to withhold this from them?

HOLDING ON IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR HOLDING ON: I don't believe in withholding information, so before you do, I think you should tell the young woman what you have and let her make the final decision about what should be done with it.

DEAR ABBY: I have heard this but never believed it: When a woman is beautiful, men are afraid to ask her out for fear that they will be turned down. I am 65, and all my life I have (luckily) been told that I am beautiful. I have imperfections, but if I were a man, I would be proud to be seen with me.

Men stutter around me, so they don't ask me out. I attract young-

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



er men, but I live in a small town and I wouldn't want to start rumors. Please tell me what you think about my dilemma, and will I ever find a soul mate.

WONDERING IN GEORGIA

DEAR WONDERING: You will find a soul mate after you stop worrying about what people say about you. At your age, eligible men are scarce, so if someone younger shows interest, don't make your decisions on outdated stereotypes, take him up on it!

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

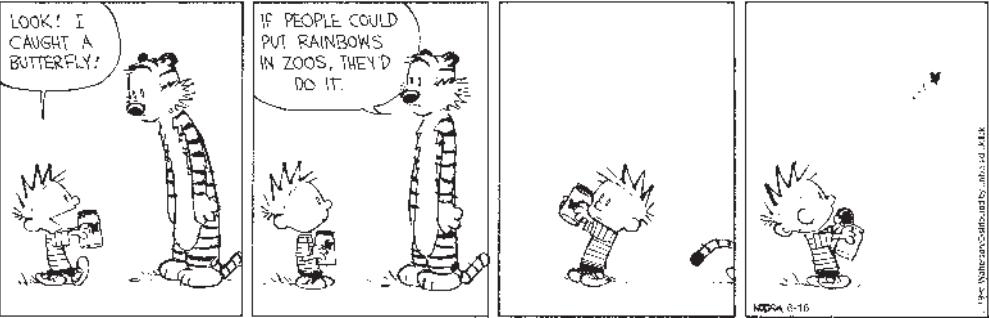
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

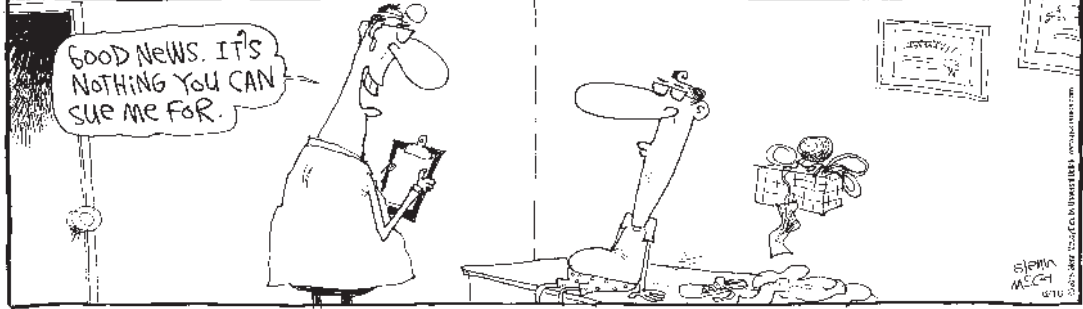
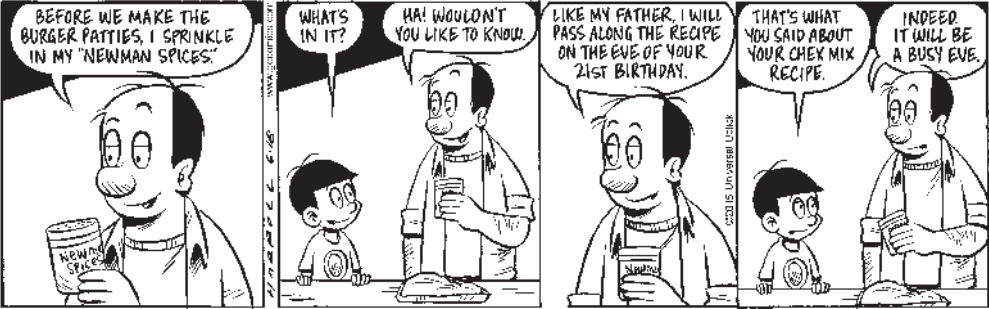


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Serve tea

5 Nibble away at

9 Once around the track

12 Teensy bit

13 Easy gait

14 Swelling aid

15 Trattoria order

17 Lingerie buy

18 Off the boat

19 Harder to find

21 Celeb-oriented magazine

22 Tin star

24 Datum

27 Solidify

28 Elevator name

31 Conceit

32 Adapt-able truck

33 Astaire specialty

34 Make one's way

36 Had food

37 Peru's capital

38 Man-hattan

40 Lindbergh book

41 Musical show

43 Piece-maker?

47 Cistern

48 "Lucia di Lammer-moor"

51 Perform-ance

52 First victim

53 Middyay

54 Muu-muu

55 Mob scene

56 Woman of the knight?

23 Sheltered

24 A mere handful

25 Census statistic

26 New Year's Eve

27 "Where America's Day Begins"

29 "How Dry —"

30 Resort

35 Aachen article

37 Myth

39 Speed-er's worry

40 Oz VIP

41 Elliptical

42 Wear a rut in the rug

43 Leave at the altar

44 Old portico

45 Bit for 38-Across

46 Somme-lier's sug-gestion

49 Kimono closer

50 Ultramad-ernist

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-18

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Blake Shelton, 39; Carol Kane, 63; Isabella Rossellini, 63; Paul McCartney, 73.

Happy Birthday: Avoid making decisions for the wrong reasons. Acting emotionally or impulsively could create problems and interfere with your ability to communicate with people effectively. Regardless of what others do, try to assess each situation you face using your own individual standards. Take charge and make the choices that are best suited to the life you want to live. Your numbers are 8, 11, 22, 26, 30, 41, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will be tempted to say something you don't mean. Be mindful of others and keep on top of your responsibilities. A change at home can improve your life, but patience and compromise will be necessary. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do something you've never done before and you will meet someone who inspires you. Use your imagination to improve your prospects. Explore new possibilities and focus on learning and achieving. A new business venture looks appealing. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't leave anything to chance. Get the facts and proceed with precision. Don't be afraid to put your own creative input into everything you do. Standing out will attract the interest of someone who is versatile and interesting. Love is highlighted. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Let your charm shine through. The more engaging and unique you are, the better. Keep an

open mind, but refrain from sharing information that could be used against you. Don't fall for a get-rich-quick scheme. Protect your assets. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Do things that bring about positive changes for you personally and professionally. Different people or surroundings will energize you. Romance is on the rise, and sharing your ideas with someone special will make your plans more enjoyable. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Do your own thing. Don't let anyone put you in a compromising position or bait you into an argument. Doing your own thing and focusing on what will benefit you will bring you the highest return. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Emotions will spin out of control if you let someone take over and dictate what you can and can't do. Do your own thing and learn while you go. The end result will lead to an unexpected partnership. Work on making personal improvements. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Short trips will lead to information and ideas that will improve your current personal situation. Don't take on more than you can handle at work or you will appear to be incompetent. A money deal will not be as good as it appears. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Look over any transactions you make in detail. An investment or unexpected financial gain will change the way you live and what you do. The dynamics of a relationship will change, leaving you in a much better position. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Tread carefully when dealing with business partners. Someone will make a last-minute alteration that will throw off your game. Don't let your emotions show or give in to manipulation. Focus on what you want and don't budge. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your unusual ideas will lead to fast cash. Sharing and taking part in demonstrations will prove to be enlightening and could attract the attention of someone who has exactly what you need to turn a dream into a reality. Romance is on the rise. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get out and do things with people who are youthful and entertaining. It will lift your spirits and give you some food for thought. Negotiations are favored, along with solid investments and sharing your emotional desires. *****

Birthday Baby: You are disciplined, clever and changeable. You are outgoing.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★★

6/18

			9								
		1		7		4					
	3			8			9				
			5		6				2		
	9	2				5	6				
7			8		3						
	8			3			5				
		6		4		2					
					7						

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	9	3	2	5	1	6	4	8
5	8	6	3	4	9	2	7	1
2	4	1	7	8	6	3	5	9
6	5	2	1	9	8	7	3	4
1	7	9	4	2	3	8	6	5
4	3	8	5	6	7	9	1	2
3	2	7	8	1	4	5	9	6
9	1	5	6	3	2	4	8	7
8	6	4	9	7	5	1	2	3

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FINDING THE LOST TV REMOTE Solution: 6 letters

RTSKBLANKETSGCR
IEONFLEHSDIKNLO
AKFUMEMORYPEIOC
HSARWRESSERDTSK
CAETISECALPINEE
MBEAHGE OFOJHUTR
RBE CRTEUCOUCHEE
AYDDACARKKUILKZ
P(H)LCILHEALCNOCE
O(E)OSWSPCNTLEDAE
U(L)KEESEENROAHJR
C(P)NAELCBREERCCF
HOMEGABRAGBDNEB
EMOORHTABEHINDR
SSEXOBYOTDEIRUB

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Armchair, Basket, Bathroom, Behind, Bench, Bend, Beside, Between, Blankets, Boxes, Buried, Caddy, Check, Clean, Closet, Couch, Dresser, Found, Freezer, Garbage, Help, Hide, Home, Hunting, Jacket, Joke, Kids, Locate, Look, Memory, Places, Pouches, Recall, Refrigerator, Replace, Rocker, Scour, Search, Seek, Shelf, Sofa, Tables, Toy Box, Trunk, Underneath
Yesterday's Answer: Mojito
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Cards allegedly hacked Astros player database



ST. LOUIS
(AP)—Federal law enforcement authorities are investi-

gating whether the St. Louis Cardinals illegally hacked into a computer database of the Houston Astros to obtain information on their former division rival's players, a person familiar with the situation said Tuesday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because Major League Baseball, law enforcement officials and the two teams were not disclosing details of the investigation. The New York Times first reported that the FBI and Justice Department were investigating whether Cardinals front-office officials were behind the effort to steal information from the Astros' database, called Ground Control.

"Major League Baseball has been aware of and has fully cooperated with the federal investigation into the illegal breach of the Houston Astros' baseball operations database," MLB said in a statement. "Once the investigative process has been completed by federal law enforcement officials, we will evaluate the next steps and will make decisions promptly."

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said subpoenas have been issued, though he did not provide details.

"There are legal problems associated with federal law enforcement officials seeking cooperation from private individuals," Manfred said. "If the federal government wants information from us they would subpoena information and that's what they've done."

The FBI office in Houston released a statement that neither confirmed nor denied the investigation, but added, "The FBI aggressively investigates all potential threats to public and private sector systems."

"Once our investigations are complete, we pursue all appropriate av-



St. Louis Cardinals center fielder Peter Bourjos makes a running catch for an out during the first inning of a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins Tuesday, June 16, 2015, in St. Louis.

enues to hold accountable those who pose a threat in cyberspace."

Messages seeking comment from FBI offices in Washington and St. Louis were not returned. The U.S. attorney in St. Louis, Richard Callahan, said he was unaware of the investigation.

Theo Epstein, president of baseball operations for the Chicago Cubs, said "I'm not going to get into other organization's business. But I'm glad it wasn't us."

The Cardinals are among baseball's most successful franchises on and off the field. Only the New York Yankees have won more World Series titles

than the 11 won by St. Louis, which is among the best-drawing teams in all of sports, with annual attendance topping 3 million every year since 2003.

The Astros and Cardinals were rivals in the National League Central until Houston moved to the American League in 2013. The Astros hired former Cardinals scouting and player development executive Jeff Luhnow as general manager in December 2011, and he has helped turn the team from a laughingstock into a contender.

The Astros finished 70-92 and fourth in the AL West a year ago, ending a woeful streak of three straight 100-

loss seasons. They are currently in first place in the AL West.

It wasn't immediately clear how many Cardinals employees were under investigation, or whether top front-office officials were possibly aware of the activities.

"Then there's the question of who did it?" Manfred told reporters in Boston. "Who knew about it? Is the organization responsible? Is the individual responsible? There's a whole set of issues that are needed to be sorted through."

He said he couldn't recall a similar case in baseball's long history.

"Until we know, this is different than

when we might investigate a drug case (or) we have access to all the facts in a real-time situation," he said. "That's just not the case here. We don't exactly know what the facts are."

MLB's forensics experts were not involved in the case, Manfred added.

"This is a federal investigation, not a baseball investigation," he said. "Obviously any allegation like this, no matter how serious it turns out to be, is of great concern to us."

The Cardinals and Astros said they were cooperating with the investigation but declined further comment. Astros manager A.J. Hinch said his team would focus on baseball.

"Obviously from the baseball perspective we'll deal with the baseball and all other questions will go elsewhere," Hinch said.

His counterpart in St. Louis, Mike Matheny, sounded a similar tone and said the case at this point wouldn't be a distraction for his first-place Cardinals, who have the best record in baseball. He said he'd been unaware of the investigation until he "got pulled out of the weight room" Tuesday morning.

"We have opportunities for distraction every day" he said. "It's part of what we do, it's a big part of what we do. We divide them into the controllables and the uncontrollables and this is one of the uncontrollables. We don't have any clue what's going on."

Luhnow was not made available to reporters in Houston on Tuesday, but said in June 2014 that the team had been the victim of hackers who accessed servers and published months of internal trade talks on the Internet.

"It was an illegal activity and we're going to pursue it and try and find out who did it and prosecute," Luhnow said at the time, noting that the Astros were working with the FBI and MLB security to determine who was responsible for the breach.

S I D E B A R

Athletics spoil debut of Padres manager Murphy

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Eric Sogard singled in the go-ahead in the top of the ninth off closer Craig Kimbrel, lifting Oakland to a 6-5 win over San Diego on Tuesday and spoiling the debut of interim manager Pat Murphy.

Kimbrel (1-2) issued a two-out walk to Billy Burns, who stole second and scored on Sogard's ground ball single to center.

The game was played on the one-year anniversary of the death of longtime Padre and Hall of Famer Tony Gwynn. The Padres played a brief video tribute to the eight-time NL batting champion before the game.

Murphy, named interim manager before the game, replaced Bud Black who was fired on Monday. San Diego has lost both games since Black's firing, including Monday night's 9-1 loss to Oakland under acting manager Dave Roberts.

Orioles 19, Phillies 3

In Baltimore, Manny Machado and newcomer Chris Parmelee each hit two of an Orioles-record eight home runs, and

Baltimore breezed past woeful Philadelphia for its eighth win in nine games.

The defeat sealed the Phillies' first winless road trip of at least eight games since an 0-9 run in August 1883, their inaugural season.

Cardinals 3, Twins 2

In St. Louis, hours after a federal investigation into possible computer hacking by the Cardinals became public, St. Louis extended its winning streak to five by beating the Minnesota Twins 3-2 behind Michael Wacha's pitching and Mark Reynolds' two-run single.

Before the game, manager Mike Matheny said he was in the weight room when he first learned of the investigation into whether the Cardinals had hacked Houston's computer database.

Angels 2, Diamondbacks 1

In Anaheim, Albert Pujols drove in the tying and go-ahead runs in the sixth inning with his 539th career homer, David

Freese also hit a two-run shot and Garrett Richards pitched seven innings of four-hit ball to help Los Angeles beat Arizona.

Giants 6, Mariners 2

In San Francisco, Matt Duffy homered and drove in three runs to help San Francisco snap a nine-game home losing streak by beating Seattle.

Casey McGehee added a two-run double and Angel Pagan hit an RBI single as the Giants snapped their longest home skid since an 11-gamer at New York's Polo Grounds in 1940.

Rangers 3, Dodgers 2

In Arlington, Robinson Chirinos hit a game-ending home run leading off the bottom of the ninth inning and Texas beat NL West-leading Los Angeles.

Chirinos hit a 1-1 pitch from Josh Ravin (2-1) over the left-center field wall, his sixth homer of the season.

Royals 7, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Chris Young became the first Royals pitcher

to drive in three runs in a game since 1972 and worked seven innings of five-hit ball, leading Kansas City to a victory over Milwaukee.

Young had a two-run single in the fourth inning and an RBI single in the fifth for the Royals.

Mets 3, Blue Jays 2

In New York, Matt Harvey returned to form with seven shut-out innings and an RBI double, leading New York to a victory over Toronto.

Bobby Parnell earned a five-out save in his third outing since Tommy John surgery, and the NL East leaders held on without their top late relievers thanks in part to a major baserunning blunder by the Blue Jays.

Indians 6, Cubs 0

In Chicago, Carlos Santana hit a three-run homer and an RBI double, Trevor Bauer pitched seven innings of four-hit ball, and Cleveland beat Chicago.

Santana also walked twice and touted prospect Francisco Lindor contributed two hits in his first career start. Santana was just 3 for 28 with a home

run and an RBI in his previous seven games.

Nationals 16, Rays 4

In St. Petersburg, Wilson Ramos homered twice off position players, Bryce Harper and Clint Robinson also went deep, and Washington routed Tampa Bay.

With the game out of reach, Rays manager Kevin Cash used infielders Jake Elmore and Nick Franklin to pitch the final two innings.

Marlins 12, Yankees 2

In Miami, the Marlins scored a franchise-record eight first-inning runs Tuesday against former teammate Nathan Eovaldi and beat New York.

Giancarlo Stanton hit a three-run homer, his 24th, which leads the majors.

Pirates 3, White Sox 0

In Pittsburgh, Charlie Morton pitched seven innings to remain unbeaten since returning from hip surgery and Pittsburgh beat Chicago for its sixth straight win.

Morton (5-0) lowered his ERA to 1.62 after striking out three and walking one and not allowing a batter to reach

third base.

Astros 8, Rockies 5

In Houston, Luis Valbuena homered twice and drove in four runs, and Houston beat Colorado.

Hank Conger hit a solo homer for the Astros, who lead the major leagues with 91 home runs. Houston is 25-0 this year when it has multihomer games.

Reds 5, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Todd Frazier homered twice and Jay Bruce added a solo shot to lift Cincinnati to a victory over Detroit.

The Reds had totaled only four runs in a three-game losing streak, and didn't get on the board until the fifth against Detroit, but Michael Lorenzen and the Reds' bullpen made the homers stand up.

Red Sox 9, Braves 4

In Boston, Brock Holt became the first Boston player to hit for the cycle since 1996 and the Red Sox slugged their way out of a seven-game losing streak with a victory over Atlanta.

Holt's solo homer in the seventh put Boston up 5-2, leaving him a triple from completing the cycle.

Wambach's goal gives US 1-0 win over Nigeria

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—Abby Wambach is used to scoring with her head. She's not sure how she got her latest goal.

"I think it was my shin guard, to be quite honest," she said. "I'm not 100 percent sure."

Doesn't really matter to Wambach. What does is that she scored, pulling the U.S. national team to a 1-0 victory over Nigeria and into a first-place finish in its group at the Women's World Cup.

That sends the United States to Edmonton, Alberta, for the opening match of the knockout stage against an undetermined opponent.

It was Wambach's first goal in Canada and her 14th overall in a World Cup, pulling her even with Birgit Prinz for second on the all-time list behind Brazil's Marta, who has 15.

"Getting that goal right before the half was big for us," she said. "Not taking too many injuries is also positive, and going out first in our group was absolutely what we set out to do."

Wambach came off the bench for the United States in the team's last match against

AP
Nigeria's Onome Ebi, left, and United States' Abby Wambach vie for the ball during the second half of a FIFA Women's World Cup soccer game Tuesday, June 16, 2015, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.



Sweden. Tuesday, she started up top with Alex Morgan, who was making her first World Cup start in Canada after working her way back from a bone bruise in her left knee.

The United States, ranked second in the world behind Germany, has two World Cup titles, but hasn't won since 1999. Four years ago in Germany, the U.S. advanced to the final but fell to Japan on penalty kicks.

Nigeria, which has won seven of nine African championships, has been to every World Cup since it started for the women in 1991. The Super Falcons were eliminated after the loss to the United States after playing to a 3-all draw with Sweden in the opener and falling 2-0 to Australia.

Afterward, coach Nigeria coach Edwin Okon would not shake the hand of U.S. coach Jill Ellis.

"We created some good chances, but we didn't take the chances," Okon said about his team's performance. "It is a lesson."

The U.S. opened Group D with a 3-1 victory over No. 10

Australia, before playing to a 0-0 draw with No. 5 Sweden.

Morgan hadn't started a match since April. The speedy 25-year-old played 12 minutes as a sub in the draw with Sweden.

Wambach also came in as a sub in the match against Sweden last Friday. It was the first time she had played off the bench at a World Cup since her first in 2003.

The 35-year-old veteran, who didn't score in the first two U.S. group stage matches, had never gone without a goal in the opening round in her four overall World Cup appearances.

Wambach said it was important to get a start with Morgan as the team heads to the next round.

"Huge to get Alex minutes, not just for us to get the

minutes together, but for her to get minutes in the World Cup, and for her to get her legs under her," Wambach said. "Because we need Alex Morgan."

Julie Johnston had the best chance for the United States early, but her strike in the eighth minute was ruled offside. Minutes later, U.S. goalkeeper Hope Solo dove to stop Nigeria forward Asisat Osohola's attempt.

Nigerian goalkeeper Precious Dede had to punch Megan Rapinoe's long 25-foot blast in the 17th minute. Johnston battled to catch Osohola on a fast break, sliding to deflect the ball as Solo charged.

Wambach finally put the United States ahead just before the end of the half when she rushed in on a corner kick

from Megan Rapinoe and volleyed the ball into the goal at the far post.

Earlier this week after training, Wambach said she thought she would have scored earlier in the tournament if it was being played on real grass. The artificial turf at the World Cup in Canada has been a contentious issue for some players.

"We can sit all day and talk about it, you know me, I can talk a blue streak, the reality is that's it's not changing," she said about the turf. "And I'm not making excuses."

A scary moment came when Wambach and Josephine Chukwunoye appeared to bump heads in a collision. Wambach got up quickly, but Chukwunoye - who got a yellow card on the play - was helped off but returned a few moments later.

Sydney Leroux, who grew up in the Vancouver area, replaced Morgan in the 65th minute. Leroux, who has an American father, left Canada as a teenager to pursue her goal of playing for the United States.

Nigeria, which was physical all game, was hurt when Sarah Nnolim was sent off with her second yellow of the night for a tackle on Leroux in the 69th minute. That put Nigeria at 10 players for the rest of the match.

"I think overall it was a good result," said midfielder Carli Lloyd. "We only put it away once, but I think we're getting a little better each game, and that's what matters."

Morgan, who has 51 goals in 84 international appearances, had not started in a match since April 11, the season opener for the Portland Thorns of the National Women's Soccer League. Her last start for the United States came April 4 in a 4-0 victory over New Zealand in St. Louis, Missouri.

She wore pink tape on her knee during the match.

Defending champ Kaymer forgotten man at US Open

UNIVERSITY PLACE, Wash. (AP)—Rarely has a two-time major winner and defending U.S. Open champion walked down a fairway in such as relative anonymity as Martin Kaymer did Tuesday afternoon at Chambers Bay.

The crowd that turned out early to see Masters winner Jordan Spieth practice alongside Tiger Woods had departed. The fans clamoring to see top-ranked Rory McIlroy had left. The gallery that had greeted Rickie Fowler and Phil Mickelson on the first tee had thinned out.

Not that it bothered Kaymer one bit. He blissfully went about his business.

"A lot of times I'm under the radar, I feel like, which is fine," Kaymer said. "Obviously the other guys, they should get a lot of credit for what they've done."

Then again, Kaymer deserves his due, too.

The meticulous German won his first major title at the PGA Championship in 2010 at Whistling Straits, another links-style course nestled along Lake Michigan that will also host this year's tournament. Then, his peerless performance at Pinehurst last year, when Kaymer opened such a large lead by Sunday that the final round amounted to a coronation rather than a

competition.

He wound up putting another three shots between himself and Rickie Fowler and Erik Compton, shooting a final-round 69 for a resounding eight-shot victory.

"Martin had a pretty awesome performance last year," Fowler said following his own practice round Tuesday. "He didn't really give us a chance to go catch him."

So where are the crowds that should be engulfing Kaymer on the wind-swept course overlooking Puget Sound? Why are reporters chasing after Tiger and Phil and the

game's other young guns, and breezing right past the former soccer star with the square jaw and powerful swing?

They're questions that stump Henrik Stenson, who finished 10 shots back a year ago.

"He put on a fantastic show and left everybody else in the dust," Stenson said, pausing for comedic effect. "But it was still a good race for second, I guess."

Kaymer certainly enjoyed his year as champion. Nearly every tournament he played in wanted him to tote along his trophy, and the replica that he gets to keep now sits on a wooden stand next to his replica of the Wanamaker Trophy from his PGA Championship triumph.

Harvard, Yale players take rivalry to Colts' locker room



INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Undrafted running back Tyler Varga fits right into the Colts' locker room.

Here, players routinely tout their alma maters and playfully trade barbs with guys who attended rival schools. So when Varga pulls out a camouflage baseball hat with the blue letter "Y," it barely draws a response from his new teammates - with one notable exception.

Zack Hodges, an undrafted rookie from Harvard, knows exactly what that darned letter signifies: He's still chasing the former Yale star around a football field, this time in the NFL. It's becoming the game within The Game.

"It's cool," Varga said. "It's a

little friendly competition."

Friendly, maybe, but the passion hasn't subsided.

Ask Hodges about the rivalry and he quickly notes he went 4-0 against Yale.

Ask Varga about his memories from playing in the series and he simply shuts it down.

"They've gotten the best of us the last couple of years, so I don't want to talk about it," the 5-foot-11, 222-pound running back said, conveniently omitting he ran for 127 yards and two touchdowns and caught four passes, including one for a TD, in November's 31-24 loss, Harvard's eighth straight win in a series that dates to 1875.

But these two former opponents have found they have a lot in common, too.

In addition to attending

schools better known for producing presidents, lawyers and CEOs than athletes, they're both long shots to make a team with Super Bowl aspirations. They're trying to become the first Harvard and Yale grads to play on the same NFL team since 2008, according to STATS. The last time it occurred quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick, of Harvard, and tight end Nate Lawrie played for the Bengals. Lawrie, an Indianapolis native, also was the last Yale player to appear in an NFL regular-season game.

Hodges and Varga also took non-traditional paths to the NFL.

Varga was born in Sweden, grew up in Canada and started his college career at the University of Western Ontario. After one year there, he transferred

to Yale, where he became one of the best backs in school history. Last year's Ivy League offensive player of the year became the first Yale alum to receive a Senior Bowl invite in 60 years. And the premed major spent draft weekend preparing to defend his thesis on a possible breakthrough for Type 2 diabetes.

Hodges, meanwhile, overcame more daunting challenges.

His father died when he was 1 year old. Hodges' mother, who got remarried and then fled an abusive relationship, struggled to make ends meet. There were times the Atlanta native and his mother were homeless, hungry and thirsty. After she died, when Hodges was age 14, he was taken in by extended family.

Top squads clash as indoor volley league playoffs continue

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Top 4 teams kept their respective title bids alive as they move on deeper into the play-off round of the 2015 Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association Indoor League summer season at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The playoffs started last week where regular season topnotcher Team X8 got almost eliminated but managed to cling on in the loser's bracket after going 1-1 in the double elimination round format.

Team X8 opened the playoffs with a 25-20, 23-25, 8-15 loss to Set 2 Kill on June 9, but avoided an early vacation after bouncing back with a 25-23, 25-19 decision against Just 4 Fun on June 11.

That was Just 4 Fun's second loss after it also absorbed a 17-25, 18-25 setback against Division of Youth Services on June 11 thus eliminating them

in the tournament.

Four and The Power Express joined DYS and Set 2 Kill on the winner's bracket after also posting separate victories.

Four survived a tough 23-25, 25-11, 15-9 match against the Managaha Unknowns, while the TPE pulled off a 25-20, 25-18 triumph over Aztig, which played back-to-back matches on June 11.

The Managaha Unknowns ousted Aztig, 25-19, 26-24, to join Team X8 in the loser's bracket.

The playoffs will continue on June 23, Tuesday, with Set 2 Kill hoping to earn a spot in the semi-finals when it takes on Four in the 8pm first game, while DYS battles TPE at the same time in the other court.

The winners of the Set 2 Kill-Four game at the North court and the DYS-TPE match at the South side will advance to the semis on Thursday, June 25. The loser of the DYS-TPE match will take on Team X8



JON PEREZ
Players are in action in the NMIVA co-ed indoor volleyball tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The top-seeded teams aim to go deeper into the playoff round of the tournament.

in the 9pm contest, while the losing squad in the Set 2 Kill-

Four match will clash with the Managaha Unknowns in the

South court.

The championship is set at

8pm on June 30 and at 9pm, if necessary.

GOLDEN

From Page 28

After the Warriors were presented with the glittering Larry O'Brien Trophy by NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, hundreds of gold-and-blue clad Warriors fans inside Quicken Loans Arena serenaded the new champs by singing "War-eee-ers, War-eee-ers" a cry that filled Oracle Arena all season and will greet the team on their return to California.

Golden State allowed the Cavs to creep within eight points in the fourth before unleashing a flurry of 3s to ensure there would be no Game 7. Curry's step-back made it 78-68, and after the Cavs closed within seven on J.R. Smith's trey, Iguodala, Curry and Klay Thompson each drained one in a span of 81 seconds to make it 89-75.

Iguodala, who had the added duty of guarding James,

knocked down another long shot for good measure before he strutted back on defense holding out three fingers on each hand.

He could have shot an index finger into the air at that point - Golden State is No. 1.

While Golden State's drought ended, Cleveland's half-century of sports misery rolls on.

James returned from Miami last summer to deliver a title to his home region, but the 30-year-old superstar, left to do most of the work after All-Stars Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love were injured in the postseason, came two wins shy of giving Cleveland its first pro sports championship since 1964.

The city's three pro teams—the Cavs, Browns and Indians—have gone a combined 144 seasons without one of them winning it all.

It's not that James didn't do everything possible. He finished with 32 points, 18 rebounds and

nine assists and was dominant throughout the series, showing why he's the world's best player.

The Warriors were simply the better team.

Afterward, James sat facing his locker with a towel over his head. Owner Dan Gilbert walked over and spoke to him briefly.

This series, which opened with two overtime games in Oakland, flipped when Kerr employed a small lineup in the fourth quarter of Game 3 and the Warriors nearly overcame a 20-point deficit before losing.

Kerr stuck with revamped lineup in Game 4, giving Iguodala his first start this season, switching Green to center and benching the ineffective Andrew Bogut. The move was as golden as the Warriors, who finished with 83 wins, the third-highest season total in history.

Only the 1995-96 and 1996-

97 Bulls won more, and Kerr was on both of those teams.

The fact that Iguodala, their sixth man, took MVP honors perhaps sums up the Warriors best.

"I always said Andre's a pro's pro," said Green, who had 16 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists. "He's a professional guy and it showed, and that's why he's MVP of the series and that's what we're champions."

Down early after missing open shots, the Warriors began finding their range. Golden State capitalized on nine turnovers in the first quarter, made four 3s and built a 13-point lead when Harrison Barnes knocked down a long 3 - a shot that sent those Warriors fans into a frenzy.

This was their night, the one they've waited for 40 years.

While Golden State had some solid teams in the past - the "Run TMC" version coached by Don Nelson and featuring Tim Hardaway, Chris Mullin and Mitch Richmond among them - the franchise has been undermined

by dysfunction. Along with long playoff gaps, there were bad trades, poor drafts and numerous coaching changes.

The Warriors often made headlines for the wrong reasons. Remember when Latrell Sprewell choked coach P.J. Carlesimo?

Well, those days are gone, washed away by Curry and Thompson - the "Splash Brothers" - and a roster of selfless players who bonded under Kerr and have returned basketball glory to Oakland.

"I remember coming to Oracle as a player year after year playing against lousy teams," Kerr said. "I could not be happier for our fan base."

These new Warriors have been a model team: sharing the ball, defending together and sacrificing individual goals.

"Strength in Numbers" was their motto as the Warriors used depth and balance to jump from 51 wins to a franchise-record 67 during the regular season.

Kerr molded them. Hired last summer after spurning an offer

from the Knicks, the 49-year-old former NBA guard who won three of his five titles as Michael Jordan's teammate in Chicago and two playing for Gregg Popovich in San Antonio, Kerr brought out the best in his team.

From the first day of training camp, he emphasized unity. A California-born kid who still surfs and would prefer to wear jeans and a pair of Vans on the sideline, he kept things loose by taking the Warriors bowling and letting them blare music during practices.

With Curry, the team's first MVP since Wilt Chamberlain, leading them, the Warriors outgunned everyone in the rugged Western Conference and entered the postseason as a No. 1 seed. They swept New Orleans, rallied from a 2-1 deficit to beat Memphis and then blew through Houston in five games to make the finals for the first time since '75.

They then held off James and the Cavs, who just didn't have enough.

IGUODALA

From Page 28

own, scoring 25 points in the clincher.

Cavaliers fans booed, believing James should have won even in a losing effort.

The Golden State Warriors have won their first NBA championship since 1975, beating the Cleveland Cavaliers 105-97 in Game 6.

Stephen Curry and Iguodala each had 25 points for the Warriors, who won the final three games after Cleveland had taken a 2-1 lead.

The Warriors overcame James' best efforts in the series and followed their 67-win regular season with a title after none of their players had any previous NBA Finals experience en-

tering the series.

Steve Kerr is the first rookie coach to win the title since Pat Riley with the Lakers in 1982.

James finished with 32 points, 18 rebounds and nine assists, falling just shy of what would have been a record third triple-double in the series.

Klay Thompson has fouled out, though the Golden State Warriors have so much depth they can replace him.

The All-Star guard had a quiet Game 6, finishing with just five points on 2-of-7 shooting. He went to the bench when he picked up his sixth with 4:16 to play on an offensive foul.

But Shaun Livingston was already in double figures off the bench by that time and fellow reserve Leandro Barbosa had given the Warriors good

minutes, providing coveted support to their stars that the short-handed Cavaliers just couldn't give James.

The Cavaliers are trying to come back and the MVP won't let them.

Curry has delivered two timely 3-pointers to keep Cleveland from building momentum as it tries to force a Game 7.

Both shots pushed Golden State's lead back into double digits after the Cavs had clawed within single digits. The first was particularly painful for Cavs fans, who had been roaring during a timeout after LeBron James' dunk cut the lead to 75-68.

And when Thompson followed the second 3 with one of his own, Golden State was back ahead by 89-75 with under 7 minutes to go.

LEBRON

From Page 28

first time with the Heat.

He became a two-time champion in Miami, but more importantly grew up, learned what it would take to lead a team. He returned last summer much more mature than when he left, announcing his decision with a thoughtful essay, a sharp contrast to his widely criticized TV special in 2010.

He became a more assertive leader. He was already the best player.

It was a little surprising to hear him call himself that after Game 5, when he said he was

still confident because he was the best player in the world. He usually leaves talking about his greatness to others.

But having belief is one thing; having sufficient help is another.

James didn't, and the effort in trying to carry a team was too much even for one of sports' most gifted athletes. He stood with his hands on his hips often in the second half, trying desperately to catch his breath while playing nearly 47 minutes.

He stood alone in one timeout while his four teammates talked in a circle, and he seemed very much alone at times during games. The effort took its toll on

his jump shot, as he finished just 13 for 33 from the field, 2 of 10 from 3-point range.

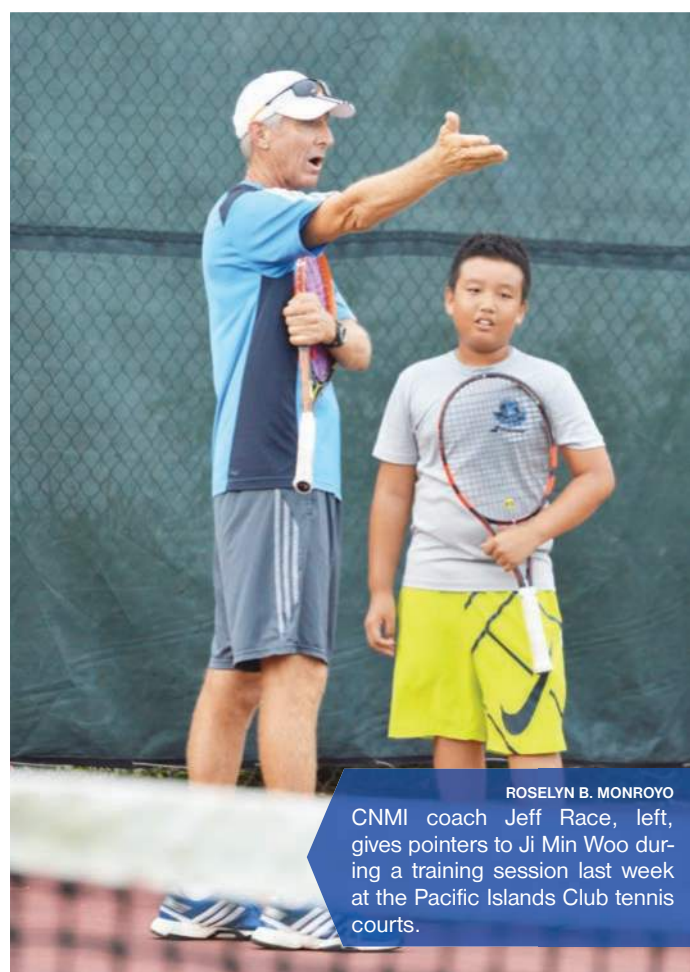
But shooting numbers don't tell the story of what he did in these finals. He had two triple-doubles, tied for most ever, and averaged 35.8 points, 13.3 rebounds and 8.8 assists.

He checked out with 10.6 seconds remaining, not before first shaking hands with the Warriors players on the floor and walking over to their bench to offer his congratulations.

A few seconds later, Golden State had won a championship in Cleveland.

James—and the Cavaliers—will have to wait for their turn.

CNMI junior players collect Final Four berths



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
CNMI coach Jeff Race, left, gives pointers to Ji Min Woo during a training session last week at the Pacific Islands Club tennis courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Junior Tennis Team's dominance was in full display in Day 3 of the ITF North Pacific Regional Championships 2015 as 14 members of the squad earned semis tickets in their respective divisions.

In the girls U14 singles, the Commonwealth swept all four semis berths with Tania Tan finishing Pool A with a perfect 3-0 record after she defeated teammate and fellow semifinalist Asia Raulerson, 6-1, 6-3. Raulerson ended up with a 2-1 mark in Pool A and will be playing against Malika Miyawaki in the semifinals after the latter placed first in Pool B with an unbeaten 3-0 slate. Mimi Sakano completed the CNMI sweep and will be challenging Tan in the other Final Four pairing.

In the boys U14 singles, the Jeff Race-mentored CNMI crew notched three of the four semis slots at stake with the top-ranked Robbie Schorr leading the Final Four cast. Vincent

Tudela and Ken Song were the other Commonwealth bets who marched into the semifinals.

Schorr held an immaculate record (3-0) in Pool A and extended his winning run by downing the Federated States of Micronesia's Sterkis Abraham in the quarterfinals. Scores of the Schorr-Abraham were unavailable, along with other matches in Day 3 as organizers have yet to update the tournament website at press time last night.

Tudela, on the other hand, made it to the semifinals after eliminating FSM's Andrei Perillo, while Song bootied out fellow CNMI player Haruya Eda. Song and Tudela will collide in the semifinals today, while Schorr will

be paired against FSM's William Joab.

In the girls U16 and boys U12 singles, the CNMI got two semis berths each. Isabel Heras topped Pool A of the girls U16 with her 4-0 record to clinch the first semis berth, while Ami Tsukagoshi duplicated that feat in Pool B to move a step closer to setting up an all-CNMI finals in their division.

In the boys U12, Seung Jin Paik was also undefeated in Pool B and prevailed against teammate Rintaro Miyawaki, 6-3, 3-6, 10-8, to advance to the semifinals, joining Ji Min Woo. Woo, who earned a 3-1 record in Pool A, gained a semis berth after knocking out Guam's Roman Merletti.



In the girls U12 singles, the CNMI nailed three of the four semis berths with sisters Conatsu and Coume Kaga joining Ericka Tuttle to the Final Four. Coume swept Pool B after topping FSM's Anne Skilling, while Conatsu and Tuttle finished first and second in Pool A.

"Conatsu cried after she gave up one point in the two-set match. Her goal was to win via love against FSM's Chelsea Panuelo. Conatsu and the rest of our players are giving their best every game. I am proud of our players for giving all they got and bringing honor to the CNMI," Race said in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* last night.

"We are in good shape, but we must continue playing hard and keep our focus," Race added.

Saipan all set to host regionals

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan is all set to roll out the red carpet and welcome more than 200 players and officials when the 2015 Asia-Pacific-Middle East Junior, Senior, and Big League Regional Tournament kicks off next week at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Saipan is hosting the regional tournament, slated from June 26 to July 4, for the first time since 2008.

The six competing teams in the Juniors are expected to bring at least 20 players and officials each, while 22 and 23 are the probable numbers for the four Senior and four Big League squads, respectively.

The delegation from Australia, Guam, Hong Kong, and the Philippines are expected to arrive on June 24 while a couple more teams are set to plane in before the June 26 opening ceremonies.

The regional tournament organizing committee said buses that will take each team from the airport to Mango Resort, where all delegates are to be billeted, are already available. The committee added that squads that will be arriving early will have to pay for their accommodation and food since the official start of the tournament is on June 26.

"Teams that will arrive before the June 26 opening will be provided accommodation but they will have to pay on their own. They should also inform the committee in advance if they're going to get food on their own," said organizing committee director James Ada.

The CNMI, along with Guam and the Philippines, will be competing in all three divisions with the Commonwealth hoping to defend the Senior league crown. Chinese-Taipei is aiming for its second straight Junior and Big League division titles. Australia is competing only

in the Juniors division, while Hong Kong will be sending Junior and Senior League teams.

The Juniors division will follow a single round-robin format with the Top 2 teams playing for the title. The Senior and Big League divisions will play two rounds with the top squad facing the No. 4 team and the second-ranked contingent taking on No. 3 in the semifinals.

The CNMI will be facing Guam in the Big League division in the lone opening game at 3pm on June 26, while the hosts and their Southern island neighbor will clash on Saturday in the Juniors at 9am and Seniors at 11am.

Hong Kong battles Chinese-Taipei (Junior) at 1pm, while the Philippines collides with Hong Kong (Senior) at 3pm, and reigning Big League titlist Chinese Taipei will meet the Philippines in the 5pm nightcap.



HANMI golf early bird signup deadline today

Golfers are reminded to avail of the \$110 early bird fee for this Saturday's 14th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Classic Tournament by registering by 3pm today. Registration after the early bird deadline will be \$130.

"For the last two years we have maxed out registration, so we encourage everyone to register early to save a little money and ensure their slots for Saturday," said tournament chairman Das Krishnan. "Also, as we are implementing the Blackjack Double Peoria category this year and players are welcomed to register in groups of four with other players they'd like to be paired with during the tournament. Although it is not guaranteed, we will accommodate requested pairing as much as possible."

Registered players can also avail of a special \$30 rate to play at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort this week leading up to the tournament.

Applications are available at LaoLao, Mariana Country Club, Pacific Islands Club, Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and www.saipanhoteles.org. For an additional \$30, players may also compete for nearest to the pin, most accurate drive, and most accurate drive circle hole. The tournament will start at 7am.

The prize list for the tournament now totals to over \$100,000 in cash, cars, airline tickets, hotel stays, and other prizes. Hole-in-one prizes include: \$20,000 cash from Century Tours, a Nissan 370Z Sport from Club C, a 2015 Mazda3i from Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods and Hertz Rent A Car, two roundtrip airline tickets to the United States or Canada from Delta Air Lines, one roundtrip airline ticket to Asia or Europe from Asiana Airlines, one first class airline ticket to China from Saipan Travel Inc., \$5,000 cash from Century Insurance Co., \$3,000

cash from Traders Insurance, \$500 cash from the Korean Tour Association of Saipan, \$500 cash from Best Sunshine International, and 4.5L Chivas Regal from Titan.

The tournament features two categories: Championship and Blackjack Double Peoria. First place winners of the Championship Flight will receive \$500, a trophy, and a hotel stay at one of the HANMI member hotels. Second place finisher will receive \$300 and one-night stay gift certificate from one HANMI's member hotels, and third place winner will receive \$200 and one-night stay gift certificate from one HANMI's member hotels.

In the Blackjack Double Peoria category, the first and fifth placers will each receive \$500, sixth to 10th finishers will each get \$300, and 11th to 15th placers will each take \$200. The first to fifth finishers will also each receive a hotel room night stay.

Five consolations prizes of \$100 each and five consolation prizes of lunch gift certificates will also be awarded.

HANMI celebrates its 30th anniversary of "Building a Stronger Commonwealth with You" this year. (PR)



Organizers and supporters of the 14th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Tournament pose with the event's hole-in-one prize, a 2015 Mazda3i from Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods and Hertz Rent A Car.



JON PEREZ

A CNMI Junior All-Stars pitcher makes eye contact with his catcher before delivering a pitch during a training session at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field. The CNMI Junior All-Stars hope to end a five-year drought when they take on powerhouse teams Australia, Guam, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and defending champion Chinese-Taipei in next week's regional tournament.



Cards allegedly
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CNMI junior
players collect
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2015

Golden State ends 40-year title drought

By TOM WITHERS
AP SPORTS WRITER

CLEVELAND (AP)—As the final seconds ticked off and the Golden State Warriors began bouncing in celebration on their bench, Stephen Curry looked up and saw LeBron James coming at him.

James could do nothing more, so he extended a conceding hand and congratulations.

Moments later, Curry was hoisting a trophy in the air—one as golden as his team.

Revived by Curry, their fresh-faced shooting superstar, and bonded by first-year coach Steve Kerr who made them believe, the Warriors ended a 40-year NBA championship drought on Tuesday night by finishing off James and the undermanned Cleveland Cavaliers 105-97 in Game 6.

Curry and finals MVP Andre Iguodala scored 25 points apiece, Draymond Green recorded a

triple-double and the Warriors - using a barrage of 3-pointers in the fourth quarter to put Cleveland away - won their first title since 1975 when Gerald Ford was in the White House, disco was in vogue and Rick Barry was flicking in free throws under-handed.

And these Warriors are a lot like Barry and his old crew: fluid, balanced, together. Just like Kerr hoped.

"I'm kind of speechless," Curry said. "This is special. To be able to hold this trophy and all the hard work we've put into it this season, this is special. We're definitely a great team and a team that should go down in history as one of the best teams from top to bottom."



AP
Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) responds to a question during a news conference following Game 6 of their NBA Finals duel against the Cleveland Cavaliers, in Cleveland, Wednesday, June 17, 2015. The Warriors defeated the Cavaliers 105-97 to win the best-of-seven game series, 4-2.

SIDEBAR

Iguodala voted Finals MVP

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

CLEVELAND (AP)—Golden State's Andre Iguodala has been voted NBA Finals MVP.

Iguodala didn't start a game all season until Steve

Kerr inserted him into the lineup in Game 4 after the Warriors trailed 2-1.

Iguodala defended LeBron James most often and delivered plenty of offense of his

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AP
Golden State Warriors guard Andre Iguodala (9) dunks against Cleveland Cavaliers forward James Jones (1) during the second half of Game 6 of the NBA Finals in Cleveland, Tuesday, June 16, 2015.

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LeBron can't deliver crown to Cavs despite great effort

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James walked off the court for the final time this season with a booming sound following. "MVP! MVP!"

He didn't win the award, and he didn't win the championship.

But Cleveland fans made it clear just much they love the player who had once broken their hearts.

James finished with 32 points, 18 rebounds and nine assists in another tremendous individual effort, but his outmanned Cavaliers lost 105-97 to the Golden State Warriors on Tuesday night in Game 6.

He couldn't end Cleveland pro sports' lengthy title drought, a 51-year stretch that's been so tough even some local fans believe in the so-called Cleveland Curse.

But they also believe in James, the Northeast Ohio son who came home from Miami last summer and brought life back to the Cavaliers franchise.



AP
Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) hangs his head during the second half of Game 6 of the NBA Finals in Cleveland, Tuesday, June 16, 2015.

He couldn't bring them their first title, not with what he had left around him in these NBA Finals. Kevin Love had been lost to a dislocated left shoulder in the first round. Then Kyrie Irving went down with a fractured left kneecap in Game 1 of this series.

James still willed the Cavaliers to a 2-1 lead and was so good there was even talk that he could join Jerry West as the only NBA Finals MVPs from losing teams.

Cavaliers fans sure believed he should have, the ones who remained to watch the award celebration booing loudly when Golden State's Andre Iguodala was announced as the winner.

Yes, things have changed.

His departure for Miami in 2010 had turned the locals against him, led them to burn his jerseys in the streets. There was anger, hurt, even hatred in their voices when they jeered him when he came back for the

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